

HISTORY OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF
WEBB CITY, MISSOURI
1877 — 1942

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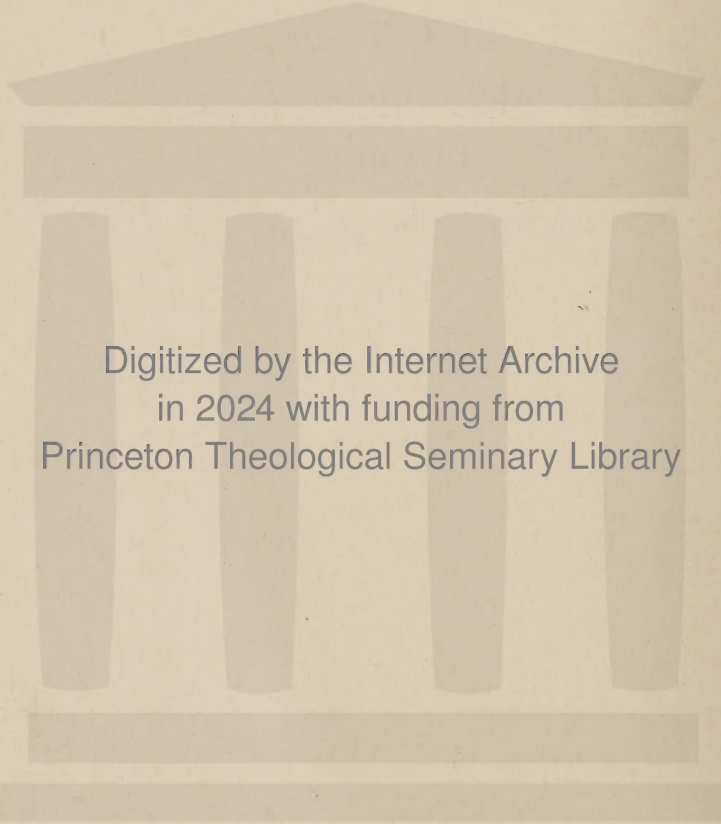


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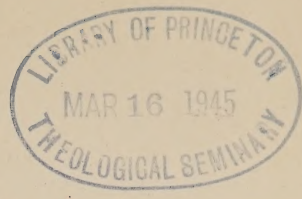
The Author

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Crotty, Henrietta M.
The First Presbyterian
Church of Webb City,

HISTORY OF
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
WEBB CITY, MISSOURI



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The First Presbyterian Church
OF
Webb City, Missouri

Commemorating Sixty-five Years
Of Its History
1877-1942

HENRIETTA M. CROTTY

Webb City, Missouri
1942

Published under the Auspices of
The Session of The Church
and
The Women's Association.

Pictures by FRED M. HULETT.

Printed by THE SWITZER PRINTING COMPANY.

To

Dr. John G. Hilton

Dr. Charles B. Boving

Dr. John F. Shepherd

Dr. James H. Speer

The Rev. Louis J. Kovar

and

To the Memory of

Dr. Joseph G. Reaser.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to Dr. John G. Hilton, Dr. John F. Shepherd, Dr. James H. Speer, Dr. Charles B. Boving, and the Rev. Louis J. Kovar, for reviews of their lives and pastorates; to Dr. Matthew H. Reaser for information about his father, Dr. J. G. Reaser; to Mr. O. B. Landrum, Clerk of the Session, who has made available the Minutes of the Session and assisted in every way possible; Mr. Harry B. Hulett, former Treasurer of the Church, for so kindly supplying cuts, pictures, statistics, and other valuable information; Mrs. T. C. Hayden, Treasurer of the Ladies' Aid Society, for giving facts and figures; Mrs. C. M. Manker, for supplying booklets and adding many details from her rich store house of memory; to Mrs. J. G. Hilton, Miss Callie Purkhiser, Mrs. Orah O'Neill, Mrs. C. E. McBride; to Mr. J. M. Hirons, Secretary of the Board of Trustees; Mrs. J. M. Hirons, Choir Director; Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, former President of the Ladies' Aid Society; and Mrs. O. B. Landrum, President of the Carthage Presbyterial—all of whom have shared their knowledge of various phases and periods of the church history.

Also, I am indebted more than I can say to my typists—Mrs. Genevieve Hamilton, Mrs. Clara Gillen, and Miss Katherine Stormont; to Mrs. Florence Leaver for assistance in proof reading; to Mr. Fred M. Hulett for spending much time and effort on photography for this book; to the committee who reviewed the history—the Rev. L. J. Kovar, Mr. O. B. Landrum, Mr. Ben D. Reynolds, Mr. H. B. Hulett, and Mrs. C. M. Manker; to the Women's Association, to the Session of the church, and to the combined committees from the men's and women's groups—Mrs. W. C. Myers, Mrs. J. A. Skinner, Mrs. J. M. Hirons, Mrs. J. G. Hilton, Mr. C. H. Bentley, Mr. G. W. Lott, Mr. B. D. Reynolds, Mr. E. C. Giles, Mr. H. B. Hulett—for sponsoring this book. Finally, I am deeply grateful to Mr. George W. Lott, Chairman of the Session Committee, for his kindly encouragement and assistance in planning the general arrangement and financial management of this church history.

Mr. Eli P. Switzer, of The Switzer Printing Company, a member of our church, who has charge of the printing of this history, deserves our highest appreciation and gratitude, for his interest and his careful workmanship, which has required time and labor far beyond any remunerative consideration.

PREFACE.

The First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri, under the direction of the present pastor, the Rev. Louis J. Kovar, celebrated its sixty-fifth anniversary in March, 1942. In connection with this celebration, it has been thought fitting by the pastor to have a history of a growing church that has had a great influence in the community, in the Carthage Presbytery, and in the Missouri Synod, as well as in the missionary enterprise of the church at large in home and in foreign fields.

Since, as Carlyle has said, the history of a nation, or an institution, and even of the Sacred Book itself, is largely a biography of leaders connected therewith—a record of men and events, the history of the Webb City Presbyterian Church also will deal with the inspirational lives and deeds of the noble men who have served as pastors, and with the names and offices of earnest Christian pioneers and laymen who have had a great part in the building of the church. Necessarily, names will have to be used; and unfortunately some few names that should be mentioned will doubtless be omitted inadvertently.

The success of a battle does not rest alone upon the generals who direct it, but also upon the great body of unknown soldiers; thus, much of the progress of the Webb City Church down through the crowded years has been due to that splendid body of men and women, the Unknown Soldiers of the Cross, who have labored in the Master's cause without special recognition, but whose names will be recorded in God's Hall of Fame.

The Webb City Church has been unusually blessed in its selection of pastors—scholarly and spiritual men, each of whom has made his distinctive contributions, not only to the development of the First Presbyterian Church at Webb City, but to the entire cause, program, and work of Presbyterianism.

The present First Church represents two churches of early days in Webb City: the original First Presbyterian Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The union of the two churches was consummated in May, 1906, in the pastorate of Dr. J. F. Shepherd. After the discussion of Dr. Shepherd's period



Henrietta M. Crotty

PREFACE.

here as pastor, the history of the Cumberland Church will be given.

The sources of material for this history have been the Books of Minutes of the Session (1877-1885; 1888-1907; 1907-1938; 1939-1942); the Minutes of the Session of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1900-1906); the Minutes of the Ladies' Aid Society and the Woman's Missionary Society; Dr. E. E. Stringfield's history, "Presbyterianism in the Ozarks" (1909); Dr. J. F. Shepherd's brief histories, "Presbyterianism in Webb City, Missouri" (1905), and "First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri" (1909); also letters of former ministers and personal interviews with those who have been actively associated with the church many years; church bulletins; newspaper and magazine articles.

I finally desire to say that after several months' survey and research into all the available records of the Webb City Presbyterian Church, I am justifiably proud of the history and achievements of the church that I love. Yet in all humility and with utmost gratitude do I say this, realizing in the paraphrased language of St. Paul: Yet not our church, but the grace of God which was with it, has made it what it is.

H. M. CROTTY.

Joplin, Missouri,
November, 1942.

INTRODUCTION.

On February 28, 1939, the people of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri, in a duly constituted meeting, called a new minister to undertake the pastoral office of their church. It was the beginning of a series of rich experiences which time will not efface from our memories.

Here was found a host of lovely people whose piety revealed years of spiritual culture, whose loyalty, devotion, and sacrifice have been sources of inspiration—a nobler race whose lives have been touched, yea, transformed by the Spirit of God. It is no easy task to follow great men in a prominent pulpit, to serve a great people; surely this is holy ground. Such a mantle is heavy; yet, who would care to assume the mediocre when the challenge of the higher and greater may be borne?

The new pastor was impressed by several factors within this church which reveal a finer spirit of consecration and worship. The church has never found it necessary to pay her members for outstanding service. Talented leaders have given years and years of consecrated service without remuneration for the promotion of God's Kingdom in this community. They gave and are giving of the best to the Master.

Another impressive factor—the people of this church have been a benevolent people. For many years this congregation led all of the churches of this district in missionary and benevolent giving, evidencing the greater vision, the finer spirit of Christ. A pastor never finds it difficult to feel the difference between selfishness and benevolence in the hearts of his people. “By their fruits ye shall know them.”

All through the years this church, a minority group, has provided a majority of the outstanding leaders in this community. Almost all worthy organizations were started and promoted through the years by Presbyterians. The remark is often made: “They are all Presbyterians”; or, “If you want something done, let the Presbyterians do it.”

A study of the former pastors shows that the Presbyterians of Webb City possess an ability to recognize and call outstanding pulpit leaders. The pastor can give only the highest praise of all his predecessors. And the people also possess that added quality—they honor, respect, and follow their chosen leader.

Furthermore, the Presbyterians of Webb City are a sturdy and stable group. They are not moved by every whim, faction, and doctrine. They know in Whom they have believed. Yet, their stability is a progressive one. Although the membership will not swerve from principles, they will try new methods for color, variety, and progress. They are a zealous people. Where could one match the zealous loyalty and sacrifice of building the new annex? Of paying the annex debt seven years ahead of schedule? Moreover, they want the best—the best Sunday school, the best pastor, the best service, the best people, the best Church.

INTRODUCTION.

As pastor of this church, it became my duty on several occasions to search the early records for needed information. These early records of the church were scattered through several volumes. A few events unfortunately were never filed, and other data were already lost. A need was felt for one complete and continuous history; and the final inspiration for such a need came in our preparation for the sixty-fifth anniversary of the church. When the matter was presented to the Session, the elders saw the wisdom of this suggestion and authorized the writing of this history while the files and vivid memories of our pioneer Webb City Presbyterians are still available.

The writing of a church history is no easy task. Who can fully understand the mysteries of God? "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform". Who can fully reveal the motives of men? We honor some people too much; others are mentioned too little. God does not always agree with our judgment. "The last shall be first, and the first last." The committee found many clippings, letters, programs, and pictures to augment the official written record, but who could and would undertake such a laborious and painstaking task as this assembling and writing would demand? Who would take time? Who was qualified?

Again, fortunately, the pastor found an individual in the church who by training, experience, and loyalty was qualified in every respect to do this most difficult and exacting task. Miss Henrietta Crotty, who for many years has been one of the outstanding high school teachers in this district, accepted this very important assignment. Miss Crotty has been a teacher of the Women's Bible Class for the past fourteen years, where her brilliant mind has been a source of inspiration for the many fine women who have attended the class. Her experience with school annuals makes her an expert in research, writing, and in arranging historical material. This church is fortunate, indeed, to have had her services in this effort. Lest we forget, there should be this additional comment: Miss Henrietta Crotty has given hours, days, weeks, and months of her time to this task—reading, searching, investigating, talking, writing, traveling, and assimilating—all for this volume of unique history. She has expended not only time and effort, but money to make this book available. In true humility she refused to mention the great service which she, herself, has rendered to God through this church. We, the people, owe Miss Crotty a great debt of gratitude.

It is our hope that the following pages, so beautifully lived, so beautifully written, will be an invitation, an inspiration to a greater history that is yet to be. There is yet much to be accomplished. Let us work together for the glory of God.

Louis J. Kovar

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CHARTER MEMBERS.

William A. Wheatley.

Mrs. Mary L. Wheatley.

Mrs. Sarah Case.

M. Boatman.

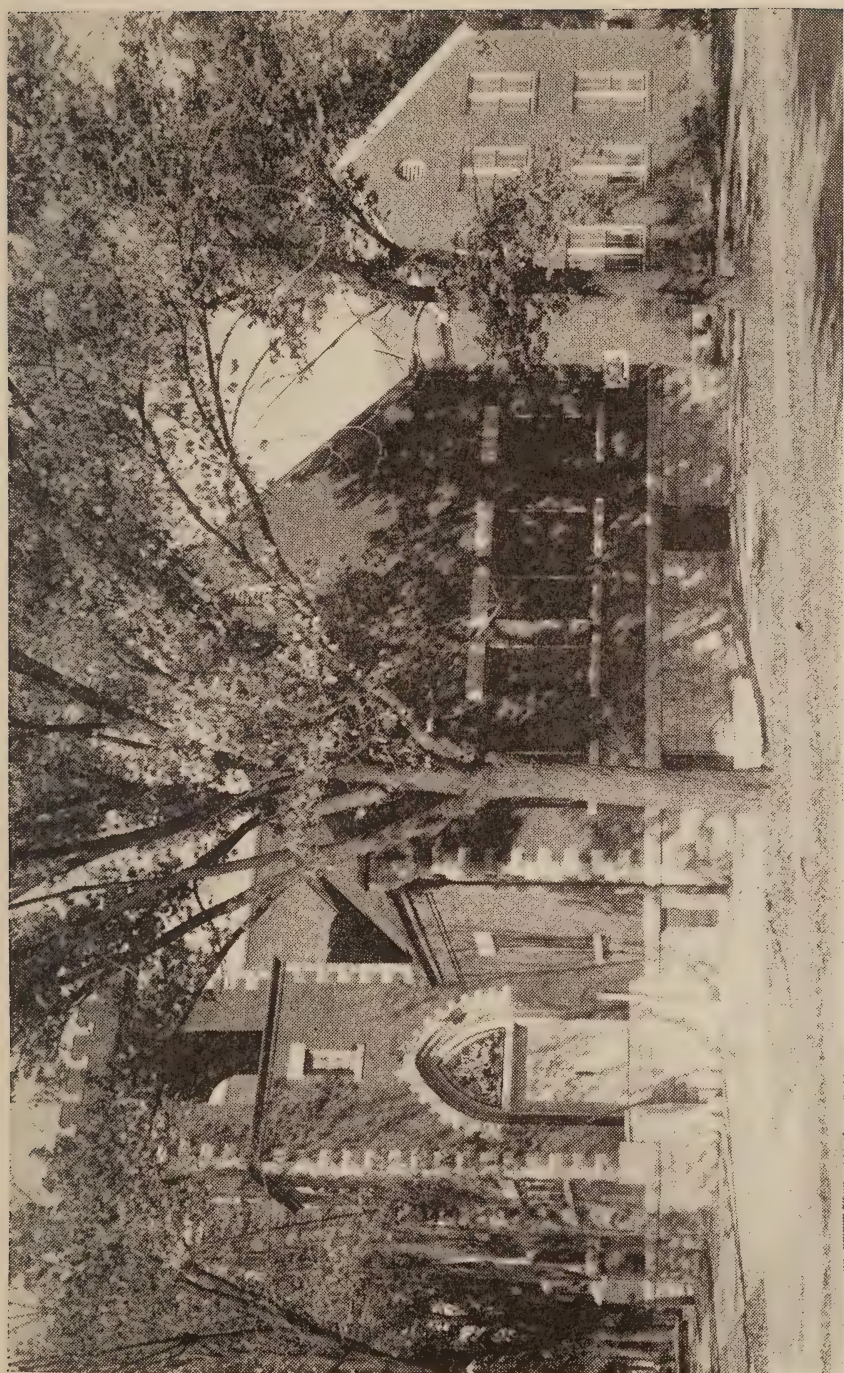
Joseph King.

Mrs. Mary S. King.

William J. Muskimins.

Mrs. Eunice J. Muskimins.

Dr. T. C. Miller.



THE SANCTUARY (1903) AND THE ANNEX (1939)

THE SANCTUARY.

Thy will was in the builders' thought;
Thy hand unseen amidst us wrought;
Through mortal motive, scheme and plan,
Thy wise eternal purpose ran.

—Whittier.

The Sanctuary! Our place of worship! Wherein all who will may enter and find peace that passeth understanding, and "voices of prayer may rise like a fountain night and day"!

An unpretentious, yet attractive, structure of red brick, with foundation and trimmings of white Carthage stone, it rests serenely amidst trees and shrubs on the busy thoroughfare of Broadway, where it crosses Ball Street, in that dear old town of Webb City, Missouri.

The cornerstone of this church, which faces the east, shows that the church was built in Dr. C. B. Boving's pastorate, for it has inscribed thereon:

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1903

Also the stained glass window above the main entrance doors has in jeweled-like panes of glass, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The cupola over the vestibule gives mute evidence of the church bell that in bygone days summoned the communicants to worship.

A flight of broad stone steps leads up to the entrance of the vestibule. If one goes straight ahead through the west door of the vestibule, he finds himself in the Sanctuary proper, which, with its three sections of pews, arranged somewhat in the form of a semicircle, makes a pleasing impression of comfort and attractiveness.

Delicately tinted rays, falling from stained glass windows
"Casting a dim religious light",

gradually make one aware of the features of this church auditorium. The pulpit with a harmonious background of the majestic pipe organ with its golden pipes and its oaken panels, and the impressive choir loft; the church furniture of dark oak; the deep cream and brown tones of the walls and ceiling; the rich dark red color of the curtains of the choir loft and pulpit, and of the pulpit and aisle carpets laid on newly refinished hardwood floors—all give an effect of beauty and taste, yet in no way detracting from the solemnity of the general scene.

One with an eye for details would note that the auditorium can comfortably seat in its broad pews 225 persons, but that the

additional space opened up from the Sunday School rooms in the rear would afford seating capacity for 100 more.

The pulpit platform rounds out in a sort of semicircular shape. Directly in front of the pulpit is the Communion Table with the beautifully carved words:

THIS DO YE IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

This table was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Martin in 1923. The Offering Plates were given by Mrs. Lauren Reynolds early in Dr. J. G. Hilton's pastorate.

The embroidered Communion Cloth, which covers the Communion Service when the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed, was brought from Hongkong in 1929 by Mrs. Orah O'Neill. Whenever the Sacrament of Baptism is administered, the candidates are baptized with precious and carefully treasured water brought from the River Jordan at different times by Mr. and Mrs. Hal M. Wise, Mrs. Orah O'Neill, and Miss Treva Gunning.

On the right and left of the pulpit are the flower stands, which on Sabbath days support large graceful baskets of flowers. One basket was furnished many years through the generosity of Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews, and now by the different church members and Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Mills; the other, by Hugh O'Neill.

Our two beautiful flags, "Old Glory" and the Christian Flag, stand by the doors back of the pulpit. These flags were given to the church by the Sunday School classes on Rally Day in 1940, when B. P. Ramey was superintendent.

The stately pulpit desk was presented by Mrs. Kate Cameron Pratt's Sunday School class many years ago. The ornamented dark red velvet antependium or pulpit cloth is a recent gift of the Sanctuary Choir.

The beautiful Pulpit Bible has the following inscription:

PRESENTED TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF
WEBB CITY, MISSOURI
IN MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER
GRACE DEWITT REYNOLDS
BEN, DRYDEN, AND LAUREN.
BY LAUREN REYNOLDS.

The massive pulpit chairs back of the pulpit desk fit in harmoniously with the other furnishings. The choir was responsible for the beautiful upholstering of these chairs. The pulpit, the Communion Table, the flower stands, and the flags, with the choir and organ loft in the background, form a very impressive center of attention for the worship service, when the Word of God is spoken.

On the console of the pipe organ, which is partly a gift from the Carnegie Fund through the efforts of Dr. J. F. Shepherd, is

the following statement about the *Vox Humanus* Stop given by Harry B. Hulett, January 26, 1924:

IN MEMORY OF MY MOTHER
MARGARET C. HULETT.

The lights for the organ and choir loft were given in 1926 by Mrs. Lulu McBride in memory of her mother, Mrs. Mary Ulmer. The eleven handsome choir chairs were presented to the choir and the church by Mrs. Orah O'Neill in 1925. Mrs. T. F. Coyne furnished the softly draped curtains separating the choir loft from the pulpit.

The heavy broadloom carpets which cover the pulpit and aisles were given by Mrs. O'Neill; and recently these carpets were dyed a dark red—by donation of Miss Treva Gunning. The piano on the north side of pulpit was the gift through subscriptions of Mrs. T. F. Coyne, Roy Coyne, Mrs. Roy Teel, and others.

Attractive electric fixtures furnishing indirect lighting and large electric ceiling fans add to the convenience and comfort of the auditorium. The large electric fan in the choir loft was supplied by the Women's Bible Class and W. C. Ball in 1932.

Doors on the west of the Sanctuary on each side of the pipe organ lead to two smaller rooms: one is the Session room, where the policies and plans of the church are decided, and where most of those desiring to become communicants must appear; the other with a door from the organ loft is the choir room, with its cabinets for music and robes. Both of these rooms have outside entrances, the choir room opening to a flight of stairs which lead down to a hall from which one may enter the basement.

Back of the auditorium is the large lecture room which can easily be converted by its sliding doors into four Sunday School rooms. Two of these rooms on the north form the Women's Bible Class room, the meeting place of this class for thirty years; also this room has been the Prayer Meeting room until the Annex was built. The piano in this room was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Aylor, and the other furniture was given by the Ladies' Aid Society. The other two rooms with a door leading to the vestibule are also being used as Sunday School rooms.

The basement extending under the main part of the church, was completed by the Ladies' Aid Society in 1905. Besides the furnace room and the rest room, there are two other rooms. One room on the east with outside entrance from the north has the legend,

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

This room was partitioned off and fitted up in Dr. Hilton's pastorate by the men. The room is used also by the young people, and was recently redecorated and furnished with curtains, drap-

eries, and other fittings by the Christian Endeavor Society under the direction of B. P. Ramey.

The larger part of the basement—an immense room—served a triple purpose until 1939: the home of the Primary Department on Sundays, the meeting place for the Boy Scouts Troop 25 on Thursday nights, and the dining room for the church, with a small kitchen in the rear.

When one walks up the north stairs from the basement, he finds himself in an almost entirely different world—the spacious Annex, also of brick trimmed with stone, and built in 1939 under the inspiration of Dr. J. G. Hilton, and by the planning and work of Mrs. J. R. Kuhn with her splendid corps of assistants, the Ladies' Aid Society.

One notices at once the bright and cheerful beauty of the entire Annex. An attractive entrance hall, which also fronts the east, can be reached, either from the main or east door of the Annex, or by a stairway descending from a small landing which opens into the Sanctuary, and which leads upstairs to the second floor of the Annex. One may also enter the front hall of the Annex from the basement of the main building. Rest rooms, the banquet hall, and a kitchen branch off from the entrance hall. The kitchen with its built-ins for dishes, silverware, linens, and cooking utensils; with its range and refrigerator, sinks and closets, three long serving tables, and windows opening into the dining hall, is "the last word" in efficiency and service. From the kitchen, a hall with a stairway to the second floor leads to the back door of the church.

The dining room opens from the front entrance hall with large French pane doors. Two other doors from the south lead out of the dining room: one into the kitchen and the other into the back hall. The dining room is commodious, light, and cheery. Tall narrow-pane windows on the west, the north, and the east not only furnish plenty of light, but serve as ornamental features of the room. On the south side between two entrances is a drinking fountain. Large ceiling fans and suspended gas heating apparatus, together with a gas radiant heater, provide comfort for the dining room in the changing seasons. The polished hard pine floors and the ivory-colored walls and ceiling add to the attractiveness of this room. A movable platform, with arrangements for curtains generally placed at the west end of the room, and a piano offer opportunities for plays and musical programs. The east end, fitted up with tables, rocking chairs, and religious pictures on the walls, gives a cozy home-like appearance to this already very pleasant room. One very remarkable picture on the north wall is a beautiful charcoal copy of Hofmann's *Christ Among the Doctors* by Roy H. Noel, a Webb City artist who lived here in the early 1900's. When the banquet tables are set up, they can accommodate about 250 persons. Various meetings of all sorts are held in this room: covered-dish dinners on Wednesday evenings for missionary and other study;

banquets like the Junior-Senior; special meetings of the Sunday School classes, Men's breakfasts and suppers; Young People's social meetings and plays; Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society (now Women's Association) meetings, and even quilting bees. Most of the furnishings and equipment of this room and other rooms have been gifts from various members and friends of the church.

Upstairs in the Annex, one finds eleven well-lighted and furnished Sunday School rooms, each bespeaking the character and type of class—from the Primary rooms with their tiny chairs and tables, pictures, and other equipment to the studied comfort and culture of the adult Kate Cameron Pratt Bible Class and the Keystone Class.

When one steps outside the east door, the main entrance of the Annex, he finds himself in a grassy court, formed by the angle of the main building and the Annex, and stretching out to the open spaces on the north, its beautifully landscaped and shady space inviting passers-by of the late afternoon to pause awhile and drink in its restful beauty. The landscaping was the contribution of Harry B. Hulett's Sunday School class, The Pioneers, 1941. A broad stone walk leads to the sidewalk on Ball street; from whence one gets a fine perspective of the entire building.

Careful thought and planning, love and sacrifice, hope and prayer, have shaped our Sanctuary and its Annex.

Golden memories of precious yesteryears abide with us as we think of our church. Herein have beautiful weddings been solemnized when young couples of the church, proceeding to the altar as lovely strains of music were played, have taken nuptial vows amidst fragrant lilies, green ferns and tall white candles; and felicitations and blessings of parents and friends have followed them as they have gone out hand-in-hand to face life's great adventure together.

From the basement, joyous voices of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have resounded as they learned to carry out the principles of the Great Scoutmaster of us all; or cheerful sounds of happy social occasions of church dinners have wafted to the breezes.

Within its walls, Christmas trees, decorated and laden with gifts, or carrying out the idea of a "White Christmas", and Christmas sermons have brought again the beauty and meaning of Christmas; from here, the older and younger folk have sent out baskets and gifts in grateful commemoration of God's great gift to the world, and young singers have gone out to sing the Christmas Carols in memory of the Christ Child.

Here at Easter, fragrant, symbolic lilies have adorned the pulpit, and the lovely anthems and inspiring sermons have brought renewed hope of our final habitation in that beautiful land beyond this vale of tears, in the "city whose builder and maker is God."

In the Sanctuary, on Children's Day or at Sunday School

programs, bashful little tots or more self-assured youths have appeared on the platform to sing or recite before adoring parents and friends.

Lyceum programs, musicals, lantern slides, lectures, sacred dramas; meetings of Presbyteries and Presbyterials bringing renewed spiritual life and friendship; stirring revival meetings, adding new laborers in God's Kingdom, and inspiring church members to greater efforts—all are associated with our church home in the kaleidoscope of memory.

In this church Sanctuary, many times, the Blessed Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been administered; and sacred vows pledging allegiance to our Lord and His Church have been made when we, each of us, arrived at the supreme decision of our lives to become members of the church, and give ourselves into God's keeping.

The faces of the ministers "whose looks adorned the venerable place" and whose sermons have quickened souls to higher aspirations of life and of service for God and man, "flash upon that inward eye" as one surveys the Sanctuary.

Sadness also forms a part of one's recollections—when beloved ministers have preached farewell sermons; or when the last rites have been held for a faithful member of the church, the memory of whom will linger ever as a benediction.

Is this our church? It is *this* and more than this! It is the beautiful spirit of the mind of Christ; in the words of St. Paul, it is the fellowship of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts—

"That thread of the all-sustaining Beauty
Which runs through all and doth all unite"—

from the earliest beginnings of our church to the present, and will project itself, by the grace of God, into the future.

Were the building all, even dedicated to God's service, it is not enough: there could be no real history. The *Living Stones* of God's church, those human beings of its past and present, inspired by faith, strengthened by hope, and motivated by love, have "wrought in sad (or glad) sincerity" to build the Living Church. These Christians have made the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri.

THE BUILDERS AND THE RECORDS.

They builded better than they knew—
The conscious stone to beauty grew.
—Emerson.

The First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, which was organized in 1877, has the distinction of being the oldest church in Webb City. However, this distinction would not be a special honor unless the church could point to a steady growth and development, and to a record of service to God and humanity throughout the years.

The monks of the Middle Ages had a motto, *Ad Majorem Gloriam Dei*, which accounted for the loving care with which they illuminated a manuscript of the Gospels. It might be truly said that the founders of our church and those fine Christian men and women who have labored after them were inspired also to build a church, "For the Greater Glory of God".

It is significant that this church was organized less than four years after the accidental discovery of lead upon the farm of John C. Webb in June, 1873, and only three months after the incorporation, on December 8, 1876, of Webb City as a fourth class city. Webb City itself has had a thrilling history from the time of its romantic founding, through the years when the Webb City-Carterville district was the richest zinc and lead mining district in the world, through the ups and downs of prosperity and depression, to the present time. The Presbyterian Church has been closely identified with Webb City through all its vicissitudes. The church has given generously in money and service to every worthy cause, and has loyally supported all civic projects; thus it has been an active agency for good in the moral up-building of the town. Because of this influence and that of other churches, Webb City has never had the unsavory reputation of many mining towns.

The writer of this history has for reference for the early history of the church three wonderful old record books, the pages of which give fleeting glimpses of a bygone era of hitching-posts and of gingerbread architecture, when such things as automobiles and concrete roads, street cars and busses, electric lights and moving pictures, phonographs and radios, airplanes and submarines, and hundreds of electric gadgets and products of science, used today, were practically unknown; and when no one worried about calories, vitamins, allergies, and complexes—an era from which our own time is not so far removed in period of years (only sixty-five), but hundreds of years in scientific

achievement. Spiritually, however, we of today have advanced little beyond those stalwart Christians of the past.

As one turns the pages of these quaint old books, redolent of the past, he is thrilled to find amidst apparently prosaic records of meetings, luminous gems of information concerning the progress of the church and the romantic association of names of individuals and families that we know today.

The first of these precious old books is a record of the founding of the Webb City Presbyterian Church, the election and installation of the elders and trustees, and the meetings of the Session, as set down in the handwriting of W. A. Wheatley, the first Clerk of the Session—the first date, March 27, 1877. These records were partly kept up until 1886.

The second record is the book of Minutes of the Session of the church, reorganized under Dr. J. G. Reaser, beginning August 4, 1888, and ending March 31, 1907—the year when the Presbytery of Carthage was established as a separate organization out of the Ozark Presbytery. This Session book has been beautifully kept, partly in handwriting and partly in typewriting. With the exception of a few notes by Dr. Reaser, the second Session Book of Minutes starts out with the name of S. L. Manker as Clerk (1889-1893) and ends with the signature of his son, C. M. Manker, as Clerk (1902-1907). This shows how closely a noted old family has been identified with the beginning and progress of the church and the town. Between the names of S. L. Manker and C. M. Manker are the signatures, as Clerks of the Session, of three other faithful Christians closely associated with the church and contributing greatly to its development: G. F. C. Corl (1893-1894), W. W. Wampler (1894-1897) and A. G. Young (1897-1902).

The third book, also interesting and illuminating, is the record book of the Ladies' Aid Society from 1889 to 1906. Unfortunately, the names of the secretaries are not signed. From this book we learn that the women of that period worked just as indefatigably and intelligently as those of the Women's Association of today; that they, like the enterprising women of the present time, made possible the apparently impossible. Their work has formed a very vital service and a beautiful chapter in the church history.

From these fascinating old books and through the magic casements of memory of some who, in their early childhood, knew the pioneers of this church and have lived the history of the institution even to the present moment as they face the sunset of life, one can get a somewhat connected story of the forward journey of our early Webb City church, through lights and shadows, to the larger fields of endeavor for the Kingdom of God.

BEGINNINGS.

(1877 - 1888)

What is excellent,
As God lives, is permanent;
Hearts are dust, hearts' loves remain;
Heart's love will meet thee again.
—Emerson.

In November, 1876, only six months after Webb City was laid out, the Reverend Donald K. Campbell, Supply Pastor from the youthful Presbyterian Church of Joplin, who had come to Joplin in 1876 from Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, held the first Presbyterian service in Webb City in a hall which he had previously secured. This hall was located where the Webb City Bank now stands and was later moved to the northeast corner of Broadway and Webb streets, where the Oldham Filling Station is now situated; and the building was occupied for many years by the A. W. Hann Grocery. Finding only a few to hear his message, the minister opened the windows and sang the gospel until he drew a congregation of thirty-three. Thus the church started with song; and music has formed an important part in services of the church ever since that time.

After this unique beginning, Reverend Campbell continued to hold services on Sunday afternoons until March 27, 1877, when the First Presbyterian Church was organized by the Rev. D. K. Campbell and Dr. W. S. Knight of Carthage, with nine charter members. William A. Wheatley, first Clerk of the Session, has written the following account of the organization:

Webb City, Mo., March 27, 1877.

After an exposition of a part of the Second Chapter of Acts by Rev. W. S. Knight of Carthage, Mo., having met in Webb's Hall, the following persons were organized into the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Webb City, Mo.: Mr. William A. Wheatley and Mrs. Mary S. Wheatley, by letter from the Presbyterian Church of Baxter Springs; Mrs. Sarah Case, by letter from the Carthage Presbyterian Church; Mr. M. Boatman, by letter from Stockton, Missouri; Mr. Jos. King and Mrs. Mary S. King, from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Mr. William J. Muskimins and Mrs. Eunice J. Muskimins, from the M. E. Church, Dr. T. C. Miller, from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

W. A. Wheatley, having been duly elected, was ordained and installed as Ruling Elder. The following were elected trustees: A. A. Case, W. A. Wheatley, Joseph King, W. J. Muskimins, and Dr. T. C. Miller.

In the Circuit Court of
Jasper County of Jasper
December 18th 1847.

Whereas W. A. Whetters, J. C. Miller,
and Jacob H. King, and others have
sued in the office of the Circuit Court
of said County their Articles of
Association, in compliance with
the provisions of an Act concerning
incorporations, approved March
20th 1846 with their ^{petition} for incorpo-
ration under the name and style
of The First Presbyterian Church
of Hobbs City.

It is hereby declared a body
politic and corporate by name and
style aforesaid with all the pow-
ers, privileges and immunities grant-
ed in the Act above named.

By order of the Circuit
Court of Jasper County Missouri

Attest: M. Taylor
Clerk of Circuit Court
of Jasper County Mo



Committee on organization: Rev. D. K. Campbell of Joplin, Mo., and Rev. W. S. Knight* of Carthage, Mo. Meeting was closed with prayer.

W. A. Wheatley, Clerk.

The Webb City Church was enrolled April 30, 1877, in the Presbytery of Ozark, sitting at Granby, Missouri, as "The First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri." On December 18, 1877, the church was incorporated and given a charter as a religious institution, by the Circuit Court of Jasper County, Missouri.

Mrs. M. P. Henderson, mother of Mrs. Lulu McBride, was the first new member, becoming affiliated with the church June 24, 1877. In 1882 Mrs. Henderson, later known as Mrs. Mary Ulmer, became the first president of the first Missionary Society. When, in Dr. Reaser's pastorate, the new church on Third and Webb streets was built, she was one of the committee to select the lot. Judge McIntire of Joplin donated to the church group this lot and another lot, which was sold and the proceeds applied to the church fund.

The only baptism recorded in the first Session book was that of Fred Manker Hulett, at the age of one year, August 2, 1882. Space will not permit one to give here the names of all who entered into the fellowship of the church in these early years. However, those who joined the church and continued as active members for a long period or until death, were Mrs. Ella Gaston and Mrs. A. McCorkle, March 8, 1878; Hiram Van Pelt, May 19, 1878; Mrs. Addie Morton, June 30, 1878; Mrs. A. A. Hulett, April 6, 1879; Mrs. S. L. Manker, February 5, 1882; William J. Riley, August 11, 1882; Miss Sarah Gray, June 28, 1885.

Miss Sarah Gray, who died February 20, 1942, rounded out fifty-seven years as a member of the church—the longest record of membership in this church. Miss Gray was an earnest and faithful Christian. In her last years, even though totally blind, she attended church and Sunday School, and fulfilled every obligation in the other organizations of the church, until the last three years of her life, when she was confined to her bed from arthritis. She was noted for her serenity of character despite afflictions, her devotion to the church, and her unwavering faith in her Lord and Master. In her later years she learned to read Braille, and kept up with the Sunday School lessons through the Sunday School magazines in Braille, furnished for her by the Women's Bible Class.

Mrs. Ella Gaston, grandmother of Mrs. Madge Gaston Hilton, was a devout member until her decease, June 26, 1923; Mrs. A.

*Dr. W. S. Knight, pastor of the Carthage Church for eighteen years was a distinguished man in the Ozark Presbytery. After leaving Carthage, he was President of Lindenwood College for five years. He was Clerk of Ozark Presbytery eleven years, and President of the Carthage Collegiate Institute the last six years of his life. He died November 16, 1905. A Memorial Service was held for him at Webb City by the Ozark Presbytery, April 18, 1906, when Reverend J. F. Shepherd of the Webb City Church gave the Memorial Address.—"PRESBYTERIANISM IN THE OZARKS," Pages 213-214.

McCorkle, mother of Mrs. Alice M. Manker, was a faithful communicant until her untimely death, October 28, 1879; Mrs. Addie Morton was a very valuable and efficient worker in the Sunday School and Ladies' Aid Society for many years until she passed away, June 10, 1918; Hiram Van Pelt served as elder up to the time of his death in 1889.

Mrs. A. A. Hulett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Manker and mother of Harry B. and Fred M. Hulett, lettered from Girard, Kansas, was the first one of the Manker family to join the church. She was a teacher in the Sunday School and a member of the choir in Dr. Reaser's pastorate. When she passed away, March 2, 1921, she had spent forty-two years in our church—a noble woman and a sincere Christian.

Mrs. S. L. Manker, who also came from the Presbyterian Church of Girard, Kansas, took part in almost every phase of church activity. She died on June 3, 1912—beloved by all who knew her for her saintly character and kindly deeds. A church bulletin dated June 10, 1912, has this beautiful account, by Dr. J. H. Speer, of the passing of Mrs. S. L. Manker:

"On last Sunday morning our Blessed Savior whispered to Mother Manker as she bowed in prayer with us, 'I have come to fulfill my promise to you made through my Beloved Disciple John when I said I was going to prepare a place for you, and that I would come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.' Little did we think heaven was so near us! In a few short hours our Beloved, like the morning star, was lost to our view in the brightness of her Eternal Day. Be ye also ready."

Reverend Campbell continued his preaching as Stated Supply on Sunday afternoons and weekday nights, and new members were received each Communion. Meetings were held in the school house; but early in 1879, a store building on South Allen or Main street (where the Minerva candy kitchen is now located) which had been a saloon and dance hall, was purchased and remodeled for a church by the congregation; and in April, the Presbytery of Ozark held its session there. Thus, in the words of a later pastor, Dr. J. F. Shepherd, "This change from a saloon and a dance hall into a house of worship shows early the mission of the church to change from sinful to sacred use material things as well as human lives." This building, which was quickly paid for, was the "first to be used exclusively for church purposes in the city."

A notation in the old Minutes Book says, "Rev. D. K. Campbell preached his farewell sermon, this Sabbath, October 12, 1879." At this time twenty-six members were enrolled in the church, and a Sabbath School of over one hundred was progressing well. Little can be found out about this noble man. He was dismissed from the Ozark Presbytery to that of Platte in 1879. His work will continue to bear fruit. The first page of the old record book pays this tribute to the Rev. D. K. Campbell:

"The town of Webb City was laid out about the first of May, 1876. In November of that year, D. K. Campbell, who began supplying us in the latter part of the month, preached to us as often as he could without detriment to his work at Joplin. His kindness in taking upon himself the extra work necessarily entailed, was appreciated by the people of Webb City; and while they were not strong enough to give scarcely anything for service rendered, Mr. Campbell continued to supply the place with preaching."

On July 2, 1879, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Wheatley were dismissed to the Carthage Presbyterian Church. As Mr. Wheatley was responsible more than anyone else for the organization of the Webb City Church, having interested the Rev. D. K. Campbell in the work at Webb City, his leaving, as well as Reverend Campbell's departure, was a distinct loss to the infant church here.

J. G. Irwin, who became a communicant early in 1878 and was installed as elder on March 8, 1878, took Mr. Wheatley's place as Clerk of the Session until January 25, 1882, when he was lettered to the Carthage Presbyterian Church.

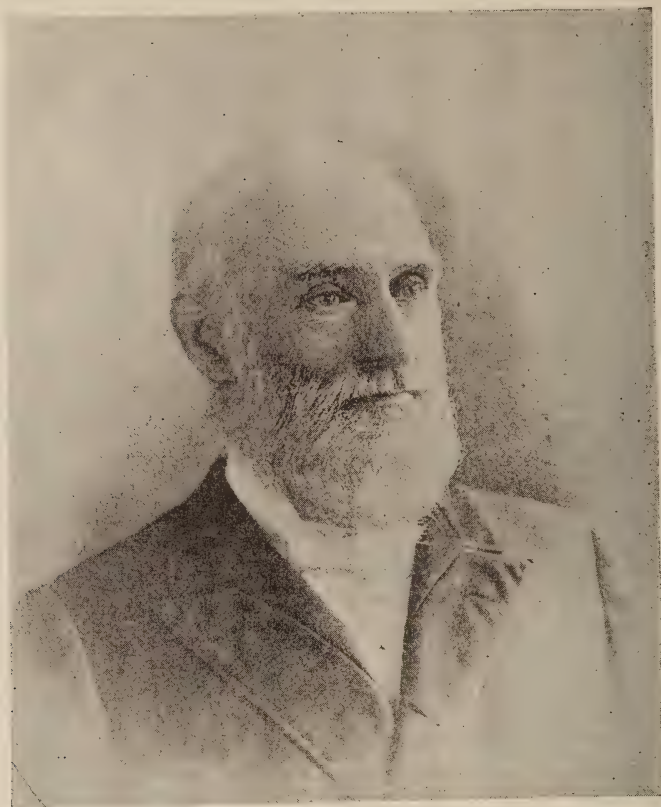
The last record in the early Session book is as follows: Examined and approved at the stated spring meeting of Presbytery of Ozark, held at Golden City, Mo., April 16, 1886. Exception: It does not appear that all the Sessions were opened with prayer, and that a pastor was present.

George F. Davis, Moderator.

For the next nine years after Reverend Campbell left, the pulpit was vacant about half the time. The membership fluctuated between twenty-five and half that number. In 1880 Rev. Clark Salmon began serving the church as Stated Supply for about two years; Rev. L. R. Easterday preached to the diminishing flock in 1884; Rev. E. P. Keach, 1885; and Rev. Arthur Hall, in 1886. The little church, which had started so auspiciously, reached its nadir in 1888. Dr. J. G. Reaser, who began to supply the church in 1888, gave the situation as follows:

"At that time the little flock was greatly discouraged and sadly demoralized. Only ten members could be found; the records of the session were lost (after 1885) and so remain to this day. There was but one elder (Mr. Hiram Van Pelt) and he was superannuated and infirm."

The historical sketch of the Webb City Church by J. F. Shepherd, states there were only eleven members left. Yet these faithful Eleven kept the tiny flame of religion burning which became the shining light of a revival of spirit and effort; and even in the darkest hours of gloom they had a vision of a new church. Help was to come in the person of that mighty man of God, Dr. J. G. Reaser. The prospect of securing Stated Supply preaching inspired these few earnest souls; plans were made for a house of worship, and the building was actually started while the church was without a full-time pastor. The names of these Eleven and that of Dr. Reaser ought to be engraved on a tablet of gold.



THE REV. JOSEPH G. REASER, D. D.
1825 - 1905

THE SECOND GROUP OF FOUNDERS.

Dr. J. G. Reaser, Pastor.

Mrs. A. A. Hulett	J. G. Gray
Mrs. S. L. Manker	Mrs. J. G. Gray
Mrs. H. R. Conley	Miss Sarah Gray
Mrs. Addie Morton	Hiram Van Pelt
Mrs. R. S. Gaston	Mrs. Hiram Van Pelt

Wm. J. Riley.

DR. JOSEPH G. REASER REORGANIZES THE CHURCH.

1888 - 1898

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost
and of faith; and much people was added to the Lord.

—Acts 11:24.

When one looks at the picture of the venerable minister, Dr. J. G. Reaser, he thinks of the patriarchs and of church fathers of old, for he can see depicted in that fine, noble face the same earnest spirit and vision that must have inspired those servants of God to unceasing labors and fruitful service in His vineyard.

Dr. E. E. Stringfield in his book, *Presbyterianism in the Ozarks*, says of Dr. Reaser: "The scholarly attainment, ready wit, and deep piety of this man of God, who brought forth fruit in his old age, greatly endeared him to his flock (Webb City) which virtually had its second birth with his coming. When he took the church, no one wanted it. When he left it, the prospects for development were such that many applicants were found."

This remarkable minister, perennially young, was sixty-three years of age when he started his monumental work at Webb City—at an age when most men are ready to retire. Noted as author, teacher, minister, he in his advanced years achieved accomplishments that young men dream of as their prerogative.

Joseph George Reaser, "one of the most scholarly men that ever graced the annals of the Presbytery," was born at Harrelton, Pennsylvania, in 1825. Only an outline can be given of his versatile and scholarly achievements. He received degrees of B. A. (1848) and M. A. (1851) from Jefferson College; and the D. D. degree from Centre College, Kentucky (1868). He was ordained in 1852 by the Presbytery of New Lisbon. The following indicate his labors: Teacher of Greek and Latin, Louisville, Kentucky, two years; Pastor, Canfield, Ohio, 1850-1853; Tutor Biblical and Oriental Literature, Danville, Kentucky, Theological Seminary, 1853-1857; President of Herrodsburg, Kentucky, Female College, 1857-1859; Pastor, Westminster Church, Leavenworth, Kansas, 1859-1875; Pastor at St. Louis and Collinsville, Missouri; 1875-1885; Professor of Metaphysics, Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, 1885-1887; Professor at Carthage Collegiate Institute, 1887-1890; Stated Supply and Pastor of Webb City Presbyterian Church, 1888-1898.

The following information was kindly given in a letter dated July 14, 1942, by Dr. Reaser's son, Dr. Matthew H. Reaser, also a minister and a college president, listed in the *Who's Who of America*:

"After Dr. Reaser's pastorate of ten years at Webb City, he was called to the First Presbyterian Church at St. Charles, Missouri, and was elected Professor of Bible at Lindenwood College—a position which he filled acceptably until his wife's death in April, 1900. He then accepted a position as teacher of Bible in Wilson College, at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, which was his employment up to the time of his death, November 19, 1905.

"He retained his mental vigor and filled very many preaching engagements in connection with his Bible work at Wilson College."

As an author, Dr. Reaser published tracts on "Infant Baptism," "Relation of Baptized Children to the Church," "The Manual for Presbyterians," and "The Two Pictures."

In his general work for the cause of Presbyterianism, Dr. Reaser was first Moderator of the O. S. Synod of Kansas; first Moderator of the Consolidated Synods of O. S. and N. S.; Moderator of the Synod of Missouri, 1884. While teaching at Carthage, he helped to establish the church at Monett and other places on a solid foundation; he served the Ozark Presbytery as Chairman of the Home Missions, in which his wise counsel, genial optimism, unquenchable enthusiasm, and ready wit enlivened the sessions, and inspired all to press on, despite difficulties, to the goal "of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Dr. Stringfield declares: "The Webb City Church regarded Dr. Reaser as a father and a friend; and very few men in the Presbytery have left as strong personal attachments in the field of labor in Southwest Missouri as did he."

In April, 1888, Dr. Reaser, as Stated Supply, began his pastorate of the Webb City Church, "which", as Dr. J. F. Shepherd has said, "was destined to give the church a permanent hope and standing in the city." At this time, Dr. Reaser was Professor of Bible at the Carthage Collegiate Institute, a Presbyterian Church school. Although he was a very busy man in his college work, yet he found time to carry on God's work in a field where it was greatly needed.

The first record in the second Session Book of Minutes is dated August 4, 1888, and was written by J. G. Reaser, who acted as Clerk for nearly a year; however, it is preceded by an introductory note by S. L. Manker, Clerk of the Session in 1889:

"For the information of whom it may concern:

Anterior to the time Dr. J. G. Reaser took charge of this church as Stated Supply, it was in a very disorganized condition. Some of its members moved away; and in the confusion existing, the books and records became lost and the best efforts toward their recovery have proven futile—hence this record book shows nothing prior to the above mentioned date."

Among the eight new members received by letters, August 4, 1888, were four names that occur in the Minutes of the Session and of the Ladies' Aid again and again, as holding responsible positions: J. P. Walker as elder; Miss Ella Walker and Mrs.

C. L. Wright, both holding office in the church—Mrs. Wright, as first president of the Ladies' Aid Society and as deaconess and Sunday School worker; Miss Walker as deaconess and as director of young people's work in the Sunday School and the Endeavor Societies; S. L. Manker, who was a consistent, active member of the church until his death, December 1, 1900—as elder, first Church Treasurer, and Clerk of the Session.



THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING, 1889

Soon after 1888 the hall on South Allen street, which the church had purchased in the period of Rev. D. K. Campbell, was sold and the money was applied on a new sanctuary which was built early in 1889 with aid from the Board of Church Erection—a neat wooden structure on Third and Webb streets, which later was sold to the Catholic Church, and which was purchased in 1940 by the Christian Church. The Ladies' Aid Society raised most of the money for the new church, of which the total cost was approximately \$2,000. We note in the minutes of the Aid Society that this energetic group of women put stained glass windows in the church, which cost nearly \$200; upholstered the seats, and fenced in the church. This building was practically free from debt before Dr. Reaser left Webb City. Through the kindly courtesy of Harry B. Hulett, the writer of this history has been able to secure for quotation and photographing, a rare and precious copy of the program of the dedication service of this first church building.



PROGRAMME

OF THE

Dedication & Services

OF

First Presbyterian Church,

IN

WEBB CITY,

Sabbath Morning at 11 o'clock.

JULY 27, 1889.



WEBB CITY TIMES PRINT

The Dedication Program printed inside the folder is as follows:

Doxology — Invocation

Scripture Lesson

Hymn 35

(I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord)

Report of Trustees

Sermon Rev. J. G. Reaser, D. D.

Hymn 399

(Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken)

Address by Rev. W. C. Bewley
Words and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem "Peace Be Within Thy Walls"

Offering

Benediction

The membership in 1889 increased to twenty-five. On March 17, 1889, in addition to Hiram Van Pelt as elder, S. L. Manker and J. P. Walker were installed as elders by the laying on of hands; the Rotary eldership plan was adopted at this time and actually carried out; and S. L. Manker was appointed Clerk, August 24, 1889. The Ozark Presbytery met at Webb City, April 15, 1890; at this meeting S. L. Manker was the delegate.

It obviously is impossible to name all the early members who joined the church shortly after its second founding. Some really should be listed who did much for the church in these early years, or who have a long record of service even to the present time.

On April 7, 1889, Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews entered by letter from the Presbyterian Church at Carthage. Mrs. Matthews, who, though she moved to Pharr, Texas in 1939, still retains her membership in this church, has the distinction of being a member of the church the second longest period of time—fifty-three years. In a recent letter dated July 16, 1942, Mrs. Matthews declares she has been a member of the church so long that she wants to keep her membership here. Mrs. Matthews served capably in offices of the Ladies' Aid Society, and was a very efficient treasurer of the Women's Bible Class for many years. Many beneficent gifts of various kinds can be traced to her thoughtful generosity; and many beautiful memories are treasured among the older and younger generations alike of her gracious hospitality.

Mrs. John Dermott, mother of Mrs. T. J. Roney, who devoted her life in useful service to the church until her death,

October 24, 1906, became a member, November 17, 1889. Mrs. Dermott's name appears frequently in the work of the Ladies' Aid Society, of the Missionary Society, and of the Sunday School.

The minutes of the Session show that Dr. Reaser, who had served as Supply, was called in 1890 as full time pastor of the church, which from then on would be entirely self-supporting.

Webb City, Missouri, April 20, 1890.

"After church services the congregation met and selected J. Y. Leming chairman, and S. L. Manker secretary. The chairman stated the object: to consider the subject of calling Dr. Reaser to the pastoral care of the church. After remarks by various ones, the vote was taken and expressed the unanimous desire of the congregation that Dr. Reaser be called, and on motion the elders were instructed to call him as pastor."

S. L. Manker, Secy.

On July 20, 1890, the congregation voted on the motion of Charles L. Wright, to give the pastor a vacation with pay the month of August. In October of the same year S. L. Manker was elected Treasurer by the congregation to collect the pastor's salary, which was increased to \$1,000 a year in 1894; and two years later, the envelope system, suggested by S. L. Manker, as a means of raising the pastor's salary, was adopted.

The minutes of the Session for July 10, 1891, show that the following were admitted as communicants of the church: Mrs. W. S. Chinn and Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Manker—a remarkable young couple, about whose work for the church many pages could be written.

Mrs. W. S. Chinn served at various times as an officer of the Missionary and the Ladies' Aid Societies; she also taught a Sunday School class for many years. In Dr. Hilton's pastorate we read of her having a Teacher Training Class; as late as 1920 she was one of the organists of the Sunday School. When Mrs. Chinn passed away on November 28, 1924, she left \$500 for the Building Fund of the Ladies' Aid Society.

C. M. Manker became a member of the Session in 1901; and from September 14, 1902, until his death, December 28, 1920, was Clerk of the Session. He was Sunday School Superintendent for 39 years (lacking a few days of 40 years), having been Superintendent of the old Union Sunday School—the first religious organization in Webb City, which Mr. Manker organized. He served also on the Board of Deacons and on the Board of Trustees, sang in the choir, and represented the church in many Presbytery meetings. Mr. Manker organized the Y. M. C. A., and was its first president, acting in that capacity until his death. All who have known Mr. Manker speak in highest terms of his charming personality, devout character, and Christian service.

Mrs. Alice McCorkle Manker is one of the most distinguished members of the Webb City Church today, not only because of having been a member fifty-one years, but also because of an unsurpassed record of service. An earnest and consecrated

Christian and a very capable woman, Mrs. Manker has served in almost every capacity that a woman of the church can serve. She has been one of the bulwarks of the Sunday School all through the years; in fact, the records show an almost continuous service as Superintendent of the Primary Department and teacher of classes. She has been president of the Carthage Presbyterial; she has held practically every office in the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies, and has been also a member of a thousand and one committees through the years that have helped determine the course of the church. Today (1942) finds Mrs. Manker still youthful, still active about her Heavenly Father's business. Occupied in the Primary Department of the Sunday School or as a substitute teacher, yet finding time to add her help and influence to the Women's Bible Class, also acting as a member of the Board of Deacons and of the newly organized Women's Association, she is invaluable because of her wisdom, her common sense, and her unselfish devotion to "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report."

On September 11, 1891, there was admitted into the church another group of persons, several of whom stood out in doing their part in the work of the church. Among these were George W. Lawyer, elder (1891-1895); Mrs. T. C. Hayden, Miss Florence Glenn, and Miss Nelle Redding. Mrs. Hayden has actively identified herself with the church in various ways, and has been the efficient and conscientious treasurer of the Ladies' Aid Society, lo, these many years—since the early 1920's. Considering that the funds handled by the Aid Society have run into many thousands of dollars, this service has been no small task. Mrs. Hayden was organist in the first little church, in Dr. Reaser's pastorate, and has played for the Missionary and the Aid Society much of the time all through the years. Misses Florence Glenn and Nelle Redding were active workers in the Sunday School, the Ladies' Aid Society, and in furnishing music in the Sunday School and church.

Mrs. Lon Ashcraft, who joined the church as Miss Carrie Overstreet, December 16, 1891, is still a helpful member of the Women's Association and the Women's Bible Class. Mrs. J. C. Stewart, Daniel G. Stewart, James P. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Stewart, all of whom joined the church in the early nineties, devoted their lives to service as deacons, trustees, or members of other organizations, contributing generously to all projects of the church. Dr. Edgar W. McFarland, who was received into the fellowship of the church, January 12, 1892, has been a member of the church for fifty years, and holds the high record for service as an elder—thirty-two years (1908-1940). Mr. McFarland has been untiring in his faithful service to his church. As director of ushers, as a member of various important committees of the Session, as a member of the Board of Trustees

and Deacons in earlier years, as representative of the church on many occasions, Mr. McFarland has always performed his task wisely and capably. On June 12, 1892, Mrs. Albert Buckridge became a communicant; and after fifty years of faithful membership, she is still active in the various phases of church work. On January 8, 1893, H. C. Humphreys became one of the pillars of the church and served as elder from 1893 to 1897; also from 1905 to 1923—the year of his death.

Another faithful couple whose lives have meant much to the church became members, March 8, 1893—Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wampler. Mr. Wampler, who passed away January 30, 1939, filled a long life with good deeds: as elder, twenty-four years (1894-1897; 1912-1933); as Clerk of the Session (1894-1897); as trustee (1897-1900; 1905-1939); as officer and teacher in the Sunday School, as delegate to Presbytery, as member of various pulpit committees. Mrs. Wampler, who for many years has taken part in the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies, is doing her part in the church today.

On March 14, 1894, Mrs. Kate Cameron Pratt, who was received by letter from the Joplin Presbyterian Church, and whose distinctive services will be discussed later, began her long and exceptional career as member of the church. W. W. Kirkpatrick, later an elder for many years, joined the church on April 5, 1894. Also on May 31, 1894, Mrs. Emma Jennie Edgar united with the church, and faithfully assumed responsibilities of church membership until her death in 1938. O. C. Zaumseil, who was one of the trustees of the church for many years from 1905 until his demise on April 24, 1939, entered into fellowship of the church in 1895.

On the eighth of March, 1895, a young lady identified herself with the church, whose life has been one of "sweetness and light." She still today brings beauty and joy into the lives of those who know her, and still takes up the "great Task-Master's cause." This young lady was Miss Belle Dermott (Mrs. T. J. Roney). She was organist of the Sunday School later in Reverend Boving's pastorate, and having a lovely soprano voice, she was a member of the choir from 1899 until 1939. She has sung solos and played at church services, at Ladies' Aid and at Missionary Society meetings, at weddings, at funerals, at civic and school programs. She taught in the Sunday School, and is now a member of the Women's Bible Class and a Sunday School substitute teacher, as well as Chairman of Group 4 of the Women's Association.

Mrs. Deborah McCorkle, mother of A. V. McCorkle, entered the fellowship of the church on March 6, 1895. We read of Mrs. McCorkle's work in reports of the women's organizations and know of her faithful attendance at Sunday School far into Dr. Hilton's pastorate. In July, 1898, Mrs. Alice Lively, whose name appears often in the record books of the two women's societies as hostess and officer, became a communicant. Mrs.

Lively was an enthusiastic member of the Women's Bible Class up to the time of her passing, December 17, 1939. Also on July 24, 1898, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bowman became members of the church. Mr. Bowman served both as trustee and deacon, and was Church Treasurer in the Rev. C. B. Boving's pastorate.

The record of those joining the church in the earlier years and contributing important services, would not be complete without that of A. G. Young, formerly Superintendent of Schools and later an attorney. From the time Mr. Young joined the church, May 22, 1895, he served loyally, cheerfully, and intelligently. He was an elder (1897-1902, 1906-1915); Clerk of the Session (1897-1902); Church Treasurer (1905-1909); trustee (1896-1902, 1905-1934); Mr. Young was also teacher of the Men's Bible Class for a long period of time. When Mr. Young passed away, January 12, 1934, the church lost one of its staunchest members. Mrs. A. G. Young, who entered the church at the same time as Mr. Young and died four days later than he, was a worker in the women's societies and in the Sunday School.

An interesting item dated December 13, 1891, shows, so far as records reveal, the first Board of Deacons and Deaconesses (today we label both men and women "deacons"): Charles M. Manker, Mrs. C. L. Wright, Mrs. S. L. Manker, Mrs. J. C. Stewart, and C. C. Sutton. The first trustees of the church that were mentioned in Dr. Reaser's pastorate were elected February 10, 1892: Charles M. Manker, John O. Munson, Daniel J. Stewart, James P. Stewart, E. W. McFarland.

During Dr. Reaser's pastorate, 146 were added to the church; and when he left in 1898, the membership stood at 98—a goodly number, considering that the Webb City Presbyterian Church, like many other churches of the Middle West, was subject to changes of population.

The organizations so important in the life of the church were either begun under Dr. Reaser or were given new life. The choir in the little church on the hill consisted of Mrs. Charles L. Wright, Hugh Fullerton, Roe Horton, Mrs. A. A. Hulett, with Mrs. T. C. Hayden and Miss Nelle Redding as organists. Sometimes Horace G. Gaston sang with this earlier choir. The records show that in 1897 Mr. Hepburn was named Chorister by the Session.

The Sunday School or the Bible School, which naturally is vitally essential to the church, had its beginning before the founding of the church, for many of the members helped in the old Union Sunday School. In 1897, the following Sunday School officers were elected: C. M. Manker, superintendent; A. J. Dunlap, assistant; Mrs. W. C. Stewart, secretary and treasurer; C. C. Sutton, librarian; Misses Belle Dermott and Florence Glenn, organists. It has been extremely interesting to trace the young people of the Sunday School from the time they were baptized and put on the Cradle Roll, until they became full-fledged members of the church. Among the earnest teachers and officers

of the Sunday School in Dr. Reaser's time were Mrs. R. S. Gaston, Mrs. Addie Morton, H. G. Gaston, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Manker, Mrs. W. S. Chinn, Miss Ella Walker, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. C. L. Wright, Mrs. A. A. Hulett, Mrs. John Dermott, W. W. Wampler, Miss Jennie Flaherty, and A. G. Young. Many of these were still active in Sunday School work thirty years later in Dr. Hilton's pastorate.

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was the second organization of the church. It was started in 1881 by Mrs. Salmon, wife of the Supply Pastor, at the home of Mrs. Addie Morton, with Mrs. Mary Ulmer as its first president. Since that time the society has done excellent work at home and has shared in the missionary enterprises of the church at large, carrying out Christ's commission: "Go ye and make disciples of all nations." Although never a large group, the Missionary Society has made up in service for what it has lacked in members, since this organization, averaging from twenty-five to forty members, has been outstanding in the Ozark and Carthage Presbyterials for its amount of contributions and its other services. This society has always emphasized the spiritual life and growth of its members.

The Ladies' Aid Society from its beginning in 1888, with Mrs. C. L. Wright as president, has contributed greatly to the financial part and fellowship of the church. The record book of the Aid Society begins in 1889. These women showed an ingenuity, a tireless energy, and unflagging interest in church affairs, that the splendid organization of today may emulate, but can hardly excel.

On November 20, 1891, the Ladies' Aid Society set up a Code of Rules, which makes interesting reading today. The opening statement gives the purpose of the society:

"The object of this society shall be primarily sewing and social entertainment, which shall be a financial support to the church; secondarily to render material aid in sickness or need to any of its members or of the congregation."

From the earliest days of this organization, these good women were busily engaged in sewing for the helpless and needy members of the church; in earning money to help pay the expenses of the church. One's fancy is beguiled as one reads of their work: making aprons, bonnets, slippers, dolls, pot-holders, quilts, and comforts, and the (now *passe*) petticoats and night-shirts; hemming linens and making curtains and comforts for the then noted hostelry, the Newland Hotel; hemming tablecloths and napkins for private individuals; giving dinners, coffees, luncheons, ice cream socials, old-fashioned oyster suppers; holding bazaars, Easter markets, clipping socials, bag sales, trades carnivals, and *Ladies' Home Journal* booths. The rummage sales, which form a popular way of making money today, were not started until May, 1903, and the proceeds of the first rummage sale were \$88.70.

As for money spent for the church, we find certain illuminating entries: payment of the balance on pastor's salary almost every year and of the church insurance bill; checks for church hymnals, for repairs and additions to the church, for carpeting the church and upholstering church furniture; payment of bills for coal, lighting, and janitor's service; funds to help the Missionary Society in supporting Reverend and Mrs. Jessup's work at the Union Mission, and to help pay rent on the Y. M. C. A. rooms; financing of receptions for the pastors and of church entertainments.

The Christian Endeavor, the Society for Young People, set up its slogan, "For Christ and the Church", first in 1892. This organization, together with the Sunday School, has prepared the youth for the larger duties of the church membership. The wives of the ministers, from Mrs. J. G. Reaser to Mrs. L. J. Kovar, the wife of the present pastor, have assumed the responsibility for the Youth work; and assisted by others, they have made the various Christian Endeavors a real asset to the church.

The Mission Band, a missionary society of children, was organized by Mrs. Mary McFarland and Miss Ella Walker in 1893. It was revived by Miss Nina Woodbridge in 1901, and named *Mary McFarland Mission Band*, and it did much in the early pastorates to interest the youth in missionary work.

The following items from the minutes of the Session give interesting information of other happenings in Dr. Reaser's pastorate:

From 1890 to 1891, the total amount raised by the church was \$1,197.30, of which the total paid to the church boards was \$67.30. In the year 1891-1892 the amount paid to the church boards was \$129, and the entire church expenditure was \$1,341.

In June, 1892, the church took up a special collection to help the Presbyterian Church of Wellington, Kansas, which had suffered great losses from a cyclone.

Three elders were added to the Session, November 15, 1891—G. F. C. Corl, W. J. Stevens, and G. W. Lawyer—raising the number to six; and the terms of one, two, and three years for eldership were assigned. Early in the 1890's the installation of elders was set for the second Sabbath after election. The meetings of the Session during the years of Dr. Reaser's pastorate took place at the various homes of the elders. In 1894, the first revision of the church roll was made.

The Session passed a resolution, May 17, 1895, approving the stand of State Senator Davidson, who in the interest of morality, opposed the Senate action on the Morrissy Resolutions. The action of the Session was printed in the papers, and a copy was sent to Senator Davidson. Thus, our church and Session have ever stood for decency and honor in public and private relations in the community, state, and nation.

The Session voted on February 15, 1897, to set apart the loose collections on Communion Day for the Deacons' Fund for charitable and philanthropic purposes. Also at the next meeting it was decided to keep a record of all the Communion Services.

From all these accounts one will have a good idea of the scope and expansion of the early church under the inspiring influence of Dr. J. G. Reaser.

An entry in the Session Book, dated July 12, 1898, in the handwriting of Clerk A. G. Young, indicates what a shock the Webb City congregation must have had in the following happening:

"Dr. Reaser stated that he had a call to become pastor of the Presbyterian Church at St. Charles, Missouri, and that he had accepted and would take charge of that church about September 1, 1898."

The minutes of the Ladies' Aid Society has this record dated August 25, 1898:

"The reception complimentary to Dr. Reaser and family was quite a success, everything going off well."

Dr. E. E. Stringfield in his account of this church in *Presbyterianism in the Ozarks*, says that Dr. Reaser retired because of his advanced years, and against the earnest requests of his people. Dr. Reaser, still alive early in 1905, when Dr. Shepherd wrote his historical account of the Webb City Church, said: "Of my several fields in an unbroken ministry of fifty-five years, Webb City holds a high place in my affections."

The pastorate was vacant for the next eight months. No longer was it the case of *who* would be willing to accept the pastorate, but *which* one of the candidates the congregation would select.

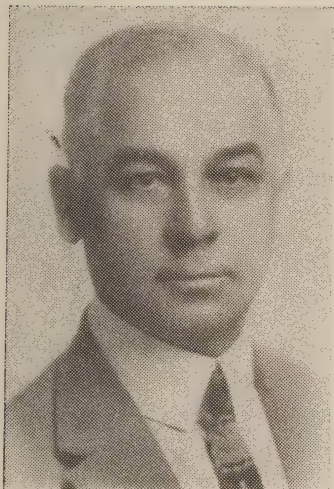
It is indicative of the persevering spirit of the congregation that all building programs of the church have been carried on between pastorates. On November 26, 1898, during the vacancy of the pulpit, \$25 was paid for an option on the lot at the corner of Joplin (now Broadway) and Ball, of which the total cost was \$400, and on which a new church was to be built. On March 9, 1899, with Dr. H. O. Scott of Carthage as Moderator at the invitation of the elders, the congregation unanimously elected Charles B. Boving, of Springfield, Missouri, as pastor at a salary of \$1,000 a year.

DR. CHARLES B. BOVING
BUILDS THE SANCTUARY.

1899 - 1905

"The mantle of the aged prophet fell upon a
sweet singer of Israel of tenderer years."

—Dr. E. E. Stringfield.



Dr. Charles B. Boving
1905

It is always difficult for youth to follow age that has endeared itself in a thousand ways to a group of people. Yet youth has bravely taken up the mantle. Twice in the history of the Webb City Presbyterian Church, a young man has followed an older man who has been exceptionally capable and unusually beloved. The fact that the change has been successful in both cases, indicates not only the high qualities of the young men, but the remarkable caliber of the Webb City congregation.

The new minister, Charles Brasse Boving, was only twenty-eight years of age. He was born of Southern Presbyterian lineage at Harrisonville, Missouri, November 26, 1871. He grew up in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, and was graduated from the high school in Lancaster, Ohio, in 1887; from Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, in 1891. After two years in McCormick Seminary, Chicago, he was ordained by Lafayette Presbytery, and became pastor of the Lamar, Missouri, Presbyterian Church. This pastorate continued for five years, 1893-1898. He was graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey, in 1895, and went with four of his classmates at Princeton, for a four months' bicycle tour of nine countries of Europe.

After one year as Pastor-at-Large in Lafayette Presbytery, living in Springfield and supervising eight Mission-churches down in the Ozarks, he went to Webb City, where his pastorate continued from May 1, 1899 to January 1, 1905. Mr. Boving was called to be pastor of the Hannibal Presbyterian Church on January 1, 1905, and remained there until September 1, 1911, when he moved to Fulton to become President of his "Alma Mater," Westminster College.

Six weeks after his return from Europe on November 6,

1895, Charles B. Boving was married to Miss Mary Louise Woodbridge of Nelson, Missouri, by her former pastor in Marshall, Missouri, the Rev. William R. Dobyns, D. D. His two daughters, Louise Woodbridge Boving (now Mrs. George W. Baumhoff of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania), and Eleanor Russell Boving (who married D. Franklin Manning of Marshall, Missouri, and after his death, M. Raymond Kneifl, St. Louis, Missouri), were born in Lamar; but Louise joined the church in Webb City, and Eleanor, in Hannibal, Missouri.

Mr. Boving was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Westminster College in 1909. He was State President of the Missouri Christian Endeavor Union in 1908-1909. After leaving Westminster in 1914, he held pastorates at Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1914-1917; Moberly, Missouri, 1918-1924; and in Peters Memorial Church in St. Louis, 1924-1927. From 1927-1939 he was Field Representative of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions, living in Pittsburgh and serving in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. From 1939 to 1941, he was Church Visitor in the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, for which Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Mellon had built a \$4,000,000 building. He called on 3,200 members of that church in those two years.

Then Dr. Boving became the Pastoral Supply at the First Presbyterian Church in Holden, Missouri, just sixteen miles from Pleasant Hill, where he grew up, and twenty miles from Harrisonville, where he was born. Holden is the town to which, strange to relate, his parents eloped (because his mother was not quite eighteen); and because they had to pick up a couple of witnesses in the hotel, one proved to be a Holden High School teacher, well known after that—Carrie Nation.

Dr. Boving is glad to continue his pastoral usefulness awhile longer among his many old friends in Missouri. He, accompanied by Mrs. Boving, was privileged to speak at one of the dinner functions in the Sixty-fifth Anniversary celebration of the Webb City Church recently. About 130 old friends were present to greet him after his thirty-seven years of absence from this field. At present Dr. Boving is taking a much needed rest, for a few months, from the arduous labors of the ministry, at Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, where his daughter lives.

The Rev. C. B. Boving entered upon his labors in Webb City, May 1, 1899; the Ozark Presbytery received him, September 19; and he was installed as pastor, December 19, 1899, the Rev. Z. B. Welty, Dr. H. O. Scott, and the Rev. C. A. Stewart being in charge of the services.

When Rev. C. B. Boving assumed the pastorate in 1899, Webb City had 5,000 inhabitants, and was a thriving third class city, with a second class post office. It comprised nine square miles, and was surrounded with the richest zinc and lead mines in the world; it had macadamized streets, water works supplying water from a spring—the purest water in the state, electric lights, a large ice plant, and direct connections with three railroads. It

was the central agency, with the main offices, car barns, and club house, of one of the finest street car systems in the country, the famous old Southwest Missouri Railroad Company, which furnished the longest electric railway in the world—28 miles from Carthage, Missouri to Galena, Kansas. At this time Webb City boasted of three large hotels—the Newland, the Arlington, and the Maine; two great foundries; a monster lumber yard; a giant milling company; a large brick City Hall; two daily newspapers—*The Webb City Sentinel* and *The Daily Register*; two banks, the Webb City Bank and the Exchange Bank; three large schools and a \$50,000 high school building, with enrollment of all schools totaling 1600; many beautiful homes, a large opera house, and a number of fine stores; nine churches and a large Baptist church college; and an alert and enterprising Commercial Club. In addition to many progressive measures, this club had formulated a motto for Webb City—“*Get Down and Come In*”—indicative of Ozark hospitality to the stranger within the gates, and especially characteristic of the generous spirit of the Webb City people.

During the first year of the Rev. C. B. Boving's period here, 36 were added to the church, and the Sunday School had 136 members; the total amount for church expenses was \$1,562.63, of which \$56.15 was sent to Home Missions and \$115.70 to Foreign Missions. In 1901, the pastor's salary was raised to \$1,100 a year.

In September, 1899, Major Cole, a noted evangelist, with Buke Culpepper as song leader, conducted tent meetings—union services of all the Protestant churches in Webb City. This was one of the first of the great union services, which have done much to bring united effort and closer cooperation of the Webb City churches for the cause of Christianity and the general good of the community. Our Presbyterian Church was active in this great revival, and at the close received a number of valuable additions.

In 1901 there were five elders—S. L. Manker, W. W. Kirkpatrick, O. J. Raymond, S. F. Clark and A. G. Young; and five trustees—O. C. Zaumseil, J. A. Bowman, W. W. Wampler, C. M. Manker and W. C. Stewart; five deacons—Mrs. J. C. Stewart, Miss Ella Walker, Mrs. S. L. Manker, Dr. C. W. Jocelyn, and O. E. Beaman.

The greatest accomplishment of Dr. C. B. Boving's pastorate was the erection in 1903 of the present Sanctuary—a handsome, commodious structure of brick adorned with white Carthage stone. As has been stated above, the lot had already been selected and partly paid for. The church building on Third and Webb streets was sold to the Catholic Church for \$1,500, and the money applied on the new building, of which the first cost was \$7,182, according to the Statistical Report for the year ending April 1, 1904. The Ladies' Aid Society paid \$1,100 on the building, and \$3,743.50 was raised by subscriptions, with \$838.50 of

subscriptions still to be paid. The remainder of the money (\$1,-473.73) was borrowed from several agencies, including the Church Erection Board. According to accessible records, the cost of the building without the lot and equipment amounted to nearly \$9,000 (8,934.73). In 1905, a heater was put in the basement at a price of \$275; and the basement was finished, costing about \$200; the large lecture room in the rear was divided into four classrooms in Dr. Hilton's pastorate at an expenditure of \$600; also the Men's Bible Class room in the basement was finished for \$70. Therefore the total cost of the church with later improvements was approximately \$10,000. Other betterments and additions through the years from 1903-1942 have been possible, because the original building was of such architectural design that subsequent improvements harmonized and enhanced its beauty.



The Sanctuary—Built in 1903.

The famed Presbyterian Choir of Webb City must have had its inception in the "Musical Committee" appointed by the Session, January 12, 1904, to have charge of matters pertaining to the music of the church; viz., Dr. C. W. Jocelyn (chairman), Harry B. Hulett, C. M. Manker, Mrs. T. J. Roney, and Mrs. E. W. McFarland.

"Mr. Boving's rare gift of song and his evangelistic tendencies" made him a popular leader of the Young People's work in the Presbytery, and brought numerous requests from other churches of the district for his help in special services. The

church members today who were here in Reverend Boving's pastorate have very distinct impressions of his splendid pastoral labors; and of his working with the underprivileged and afflicted and giving financial assistance as well as personal Christian evangelism.

During his five-year pastorate, the Rev. C. B. Boving added 127 members to the church; and when he left in 1905, the congregation numbered 165 communicants, although in those "boom" times the congregation was shifting and unsettled.

The Ladies' Aid Society continued their remarkable work in contributing to the finances. Their crowning achievement during Dr. Reaser's and Dr. Boving's pastorates was their assistance in building the new church. Within seven months (September 19, 1903—March 25, 1904) they contributed \$1100 on the new church. Before this they had paid for chairs for the Y. M. C. A., to be used later in the new Sunday School rooms of the church. The society had the basement of the new church finished, and it was first used for a sociable, October 19, 1905.

A very important issue of the Aid Society came up on January 10, 1902: The question was whether the society would continue the social feature in its meetings or return to the original method of work. It was finally decided to make the meetings social occasions; therefore, the social hour continues to the present day. In the winter of 1904-1905, the Aid Society sponsored a lecture or lyceum course for the entertainment and edification of the church members and others of the district. The Rev. C. B. Boving gave a lecture, *Europe from a Wheel*, December 6, 1904, to help to defray the expenses of the lyceum course, which consisted of five lectures at a cost of \$415. In December, 1904, the ladies planned a reception complimentary to Reverend Boving and family, who were moving to Hannibal, Missouri. In May, 1905, they paid Dr. Shepherd \$50 to help on his expenses in moving to Webb City.

Only the names of those who served as officers or hostesses of the Aid Society during the period from 1888 to 1907 can be given, as no complete list of members can be found. From the minutes of the society, one gleans these names: Mrs. A. McCorkle, Mrs. J. C. Stewart, Mrs. C. L. Wright, Mrs. S. L. Manker, Mrs. J. G. Reaser, Mrs. R. L. Morton, Mrs. W. S. Chinn, Mrs. G. F. C. Corl, Mrs. Frank Thomas, Mrs. R. S. Gaston, Mrs. C. E. Matthews, Mrs. John Dermott, Mrs. G. W. Lawyer, Mrs. Albert Buckeridge, Mrs. C. W. Jocelyn, Mrs. A. A. Hulett, Mrs. L. P. Hagar, Mrs. W. W. Wampler, Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. S. F. Clark, Miss Jennie Flaherty, Mrs. J. P. Stewart, Mrs. Joe McCollum, Mrs. George Haskins, Mrs. Susan Muratta, Mrs. T. C. Hayden, Mrs. J. B. Overstreet, Miss Carrie Overstreet, Miss Nelle Redding, Mrs. O. J. Raymond, Mrs. J. P. Walker, Mrs. F. W. Stevens, Mrs. Will F. Cook, Mrs. Essie Harris, Mrs. E. E. Alexander, Mrs. L. D. Hare, Mrs. M. R. Lively, Mrs. J. J. Funk, Mrs. G. F. Edgar, Mrs. H. C. Humphreys, Mrs. T. J. Roney,

Mrs. George W. Taylor, Mrs. C. C. Sutton, Mrs. R. S. Warthen, Mrs. E. W. McFarland, Mrs. J. C. Cowan, Mrs. Drusilla Cary, Mrs. A. G. Young, Mrs. J. A. Bowman, Miss Ella Walker, Miss Florence Glenn, Mrs. E. E. Wood, Mrs. J. E. Potts, Mrs. E. J. Pratt, Mrs. W. R. Robertson, Mrs. Belle Yankey, Mrs. Edward Eells, Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, Mrs. W. D. Richardson, Mrs. H. G. Gaston, Mrs. C. B. Boving, and Miss Nina Woodbridge.

The book containing the minutes of the Congregational meetings has the following account dated December 4, 1904:

"A Congregational meeting was held at the close of the morning service, and C. M. Manker was elected Chairman. Rev. C. B. Boving presented his resignation as pastor of this church, which was read and accepted to take effect on December 31.

"After expressions of regret from many of the members of the church and congregation, the motion was made, seconded and carried, that a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of our regret at the severance of pastoral relations, and commending him to the love and esteem of the church and congregation at Hannibal, Missouri, where he goes.

"The following persons were appointed on this committee: J. K. McGoodwin, Mrs. W. W. Wampler, O. J. Raymond, Mrs. C. W. Jocelyn, H. G. Gaston."

The following paragraphs are taken from a long newspaper article dated December 9, 1904, under the heading, "THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS—The Occasion Being the Severance by Rev. C. B. Boving of his Ministerial Relations with the Church":

"In behalf of those whose good fortune it has been to enjoy and profit by your faithful ministry, Mr. Boving, the members of this church and all who have worshipped with us, we are commissioned to tender to you this inadequate though loving testimony of our grateful appreciation of your work as pastor, and of the delightful, helpful, and most congenial relations enjoyed during six years of your pastorate. . . .

"It gives us pleasure to suggest the following resolutions: Resolved: That in securing the services of Bro. Boving six years ago, the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City chose better than she knew, and was blessed of God in her choice. We have been the favored recipients of faithful instruction in God's word by one who is thoroughly equipped in scholarship and spiritual devotion, ever moved by a consuming desire to preach the everlasting truth.

"Resolved: That while deeply regretting our loss, we most heartily congratulate the church, congregation, and citizenship of Hannibal, Missouri in the great good fortune that has fallen to their lot."

On February 6, 1905, the pastoral relationship was dissolved at a special meeting of the Ozark Presbytery at Carthage. Dr. W. S. Knight of Carthage was Moderator during the period the pulpit was vacant. Arrangements were made by the Session on March 27, to have Dr. J. F. Shepherd, of Fairbury, Nebraska, preach the next Sunday. Then on April 12, by a unanimous vote, it was decided to extend a call to Dr. Shepherd, offering a salary of \$1,200 and house rent.

DR. JOHN F. SHEPHERD UNITES TWO CHURCHES —ADDS THE MANSE AND THE PIPE ORGAN.

1905 - 1909

Rich was he of holy thought and work,
He was also a learned man, a clerk
That Christ's gospel truly could preach.
—Chaucer.

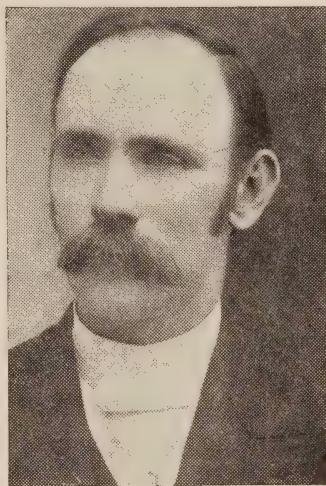
Dr. John Franklin Shepherd is characterized by Dr. E. E. Stringfield as "versatile, virile, and vigorous." This characterization holds true today; for although past eighty-two years of age, Dr. Shepherd is still active as a preacher—often being called upon to fill the pulpit, and still writing scholarly books of philosophical and religious nature, which embody his ripe wisdom and deep convictions of life and of God and the church, gained through years of experience, study, and reflection, as a teacher and minister.

The writer of this history has a church bulletin of the Central Presbyterian Church at Longmont, Colorado, dated June 21, 1942, which shows Dr. Shepherd supplying for the regular pastor, the Rev. Elmer L. Setterlund, and preaching on the subject, "Living Too Low."

From Dr. E. E. Stringfield's book, *Presbyterianism in the Ozarks*, and through the cooperation of Dr. Shepherd himself, an account of Dr. Shepherd's life and work has been obtained.

John Franklin Shepherd was born near Woodsfield, Ohio, March 7, 1860. His parents were Presbyterians, and he was tutored on the Shorter Catechism of that church. However, as there was no church of that denomination near his home, he was brought up in the church of the United Brethren, with which he united at the age of sixteen. He became a Sunday School teacher at once, and a leader of the music in the country church.

His education was secured in the Madison Academy and Ohio University, in which he held a County Scholarship. He was graduated from the Union Biblical Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, in



John F. Shepherd, D.D., Ph. D.
1909

1888, being ordained the same year. He was pastor of the First United Brethren Church of Denver, Colorado, at his graduation, but had to return to the East on account of the illness of his wife. He then became pastor of the First United Brethren Church of Akron, Ohio, where in three years a fine new church was built and the membership doubled. He served three years as District Superintendent of that denomination. Then he transferred to the Presbyterian Church, serving most happily at Carrollton, Ohio; Fairbury, Nebraska; and at Webb City, Missouri, for over four years. From Webb City he went to the Third Presbyterian Church of Toledo, Ohio, where the church membership was doubled in four years, a pipe organ installed, and a fine educational building erected. At Twin Falls, Idaho, his next pastorate, a beautiful church was built, and the membership grew from 273 to 620; from this charge, he moved to Trinidad, Colorado, where in two and one-half years, the membership almost doubled, and the income from the church doubled. For over four years, Dr. Shepherd was Executive of the Synod of Montana; and in the eight-year period, as Executive of the Synod of Florida, he organized twenty new churches, and directed the affairs of all the churches of these Mission Synods. Since closing his work in Florida, he has served five churches badly run down or in trouble, and in each case has built them up and secured fine ministers for each church.

He married Sarah M. Leggett, of a minister's family, in September, 1883; of this union four daughters were born: Olive Lewis of Denver, Colorado, wife of a foreman in mechanical engineering; Hattie Miller of Canton, Ohio, her husband principal of schools and an elder in the Presbyterian Church; Ruth Morgenthaler of Des Moines, Iowa, the wife of a high school teacher of that city; and Helen Ragdale of Bozeman, Montana, her husband the head of the city and county high schools there, an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and his name in *Who's Who in America*.

Sarah Shepherd died in August, 1937, and sleeps in the beautiful mausoleum of Fairmont Cemetery in Denver. In October, 1938, Dr. Shepherd married Emily L. Ickes, a devoted Christian worker, who is loved for her beauty of person and character by everyone who knows her.

Dr. Shepherd completed a post graduate course in philosophy, psychology and economics in 1893, and was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the course by Otterbein University, Ohio; in 1906 the degree of Doctor of Divinity was granted him by Richmond College, Ohio. He has written a number of books, including "Fifty Years in the Gospel Ministry", and "American Progress and the Divine Plan". He has been a member of five General Assemblies, and is a life member of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church of New York.

Dr. Shepherd was received by the Ozark Presbytery, May

17, 1905. He was installed as pastor of the Webb City Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, June 11, 1905; and the Reverend B. M. Shive, of the First Presbyterian Church of Joplin, delivered the Address.

The four years spent by Dr. Shepherd as pastor in Webb City were fruitful both in the church and the district, and in the Presbytery.

With an industry and vigor that have ever been characteristic of him, Dr. Shepherd added twenty-two to the enrollment of the church in a few months; and in 1907 the membership had increased to 325. The greater part of this increase was due to the Union of the First Church with the Cumberland Church, which was ratified by the Ozark Presbytery, September 12, 1906.

An extensive article in the *Herald and Presbytery* dated October 7, 1908, stated that the membership of the Presbyterian Church of Webb City at that date was 376; there were 60 in the Home Department; 80 on the Cradle Roll; 60 in the Christian Endeavor, and 400 at the Sunday School on Rally Day. A Sunday School with an enrollment of 66 had been started at Pleasant Valley. The population of Webb City at this time was nearly 15,000; the average weekly output of ore within a radius of three miles was \$150,000, and the largest zinc and lead mine in the world was just outside the corporate limits of Webb City. The article also said that Dr. Shepherd had made 4,000 pastoral calls and baptized 107 persons. The people of the congregation had recently celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Dr. and Mrs. Shepherd with a delightful visit and many generous gifts.

In March, 1906, about a year after Dr. Shepherd began his work at Webb City, a new pipe organ was secured at an approximate cost of \$2,000; and other improvements were added to the church equipment, which together with the pipe organ totaled \$3,200. After Dr. Shepherd had succeeded in obtaining an outright donation to the church of \$750 from Carnegie Fund for the pipe organ, the members of the church began to contact and interest organ builders in order to get an estimate of the cost. The Marshall-Bennett Organ Company, of Moline, Illinois, was instrumental in having a committee appointed by the church—consisting of W. W. Wampler, Harry B. Hulett, and Miss Latta Stewart—to inspect their organs in nearby cities. The committee visited several cities—Kansas City, Joplin, and others, and recommended to the church the purchase of an organ of the Marshall-Bennett construction. The remainder of the cost of the organ was made up by popular subscription of the church membership and friends, the church choir working especially for this subscription. The organ has been a source of joy and beauty in church services and community activities in all the years since.

The Great Organ has 244 pipes; the Swell Organ, 293 pipes;

the Pedal Organ, 42 pipes; and the total, 579 pipes. There are 11 Registers and 8 Couplers, 2 Mechanicals, 6 Pistons, 4 Pedal Movements. The Pipe Organ has two Manuals with a compass of 61 notes; the compass of Pedals is 30 notes.

The *Vox Humana Stop*, given by Harry B. Hulett in memory of his mother, has greatly improved the beauty and volume of the tone.

The new organ was presented to the public with an Organ Recital on Thursday evening, August 16, 1906, by Charles Gallows, a celebrated Organist, assisted by Miss Anna Nilson, Soprano; and Mr. E. E. Wood, Baritone—with Mrs. E. T. Webb and Miss Latta Stewart, Accompanists:

Suite Gothique	<i>L. Boellmann</i>
Largo	<i>G. F. Handel</i>
Vocal, "Fear Not Ye, O Israel"	<i>Dudley Buck</i>

MR. WOOD

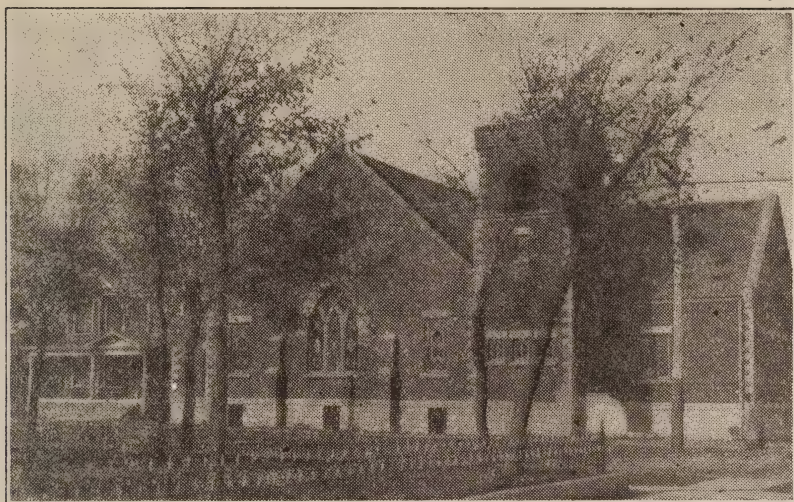
The Holy Night (A Tone Picture)	<i>Dudley Buck</i>
Offertoire	<i>Th. Salome</i>
Fanfare	<i>H. R. Shelley</i>
Vocal, "With Verdure Clad," from The Creation	<i>Haydn</i>

MISS NILSON

Nuptial March	<i>Alexander Guilmant</i>
Elevation	<i>Samuel Rousseau</i>
Grand Chorus	<i>Alfred Hollins</i>

Up to this time, the church had not owned a manse, but rented a home for the pastor. In 1907, a new manse was built on the lot west of the church at a first cost of \$3,438.72, and with later improvements, over \$4,000. The Cumberland church manse was sold for \$2,500, which was applied as part payment for the new manse. On May 8, 1906, the church bought the lot north of the church with a small house for \$1,300 and gave a note for the amount. This action showed a vision of the future, for on this lot the new Annex has been built.

"The Musical Committee" of Dr. Boving's pastorate had grown into a well-organized choir under the expert direction of Harry B. Hulett, with Mrs. Latta McCroskey as organist and Miss Nelle Redding as pianist. The choir members were Mrs. T. J. Roney, J. B. Arbuthnot, Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, C. M. Manker, B. D. Reynolds, E. E. Wood, Mrs. J. M. Hirons, Mrs. E. W. McFarland, W. B. Shackelford, Dr. C. W. Joceyn, Mrs. Aimee Reynolds, Mrs. C. C. Harris, Mrs. Willa Stoller, Roy Teel, James Muratta, C. E. Baker, Alfred Toutz, Roy Bennett, Will P. Purkhiser, J. C. Fowler, Mrs. J. C. Fowler, Burch McCollum, Mrs. Joseph McCollum, Mrs. Pierre M. Wallace, George W. Fullerton, Mrs. George W. Fullerton, Misses Caroline Hacker, Carrie Sutton, Lela Bruce, Florence Glenn, Kate Sutton, Annie Moore, and Zula



The Church and the Manse—Facing Broadway.

Pyle. A picture of the choir was taken May 4, 1908 on the occasion of their giving Dudley Buck's cantata, "The Story of the Cross."

At Christmas, 1906, Dr. Shepherd issued a booklet of Christmas Greetings, with the cover in colors. This Christmas Booklet was contributed for this history by Mrs. C. M. Manker. Besides a number of lovely quoted poems illustrating the nine graces of the Fruit of the Spirit given by St. Paul in Galatians 5:22-23, a picture of the church, a thought for each day of the week, an acrostic of First Presbyterian Church, Webb City, Missouri—Dr. Shepherd has composed a poem, which is so original and interesting that it is repeated here.

OUR CHURCH—Its Organization

Communicants, three hundred, twice as many more
Adherents; if to Christ surrendered what a power! (Col. 1:18)

The Gospel, preached in home and sacred shrine,
Helps saint and sinner say, "His grace is mine." (Col. 1:28)

Eleven elders rule in faith and love,
Hoping that all may reach the Home above. (I Tim. 5:17)

Nine deacons serve the cause "Benevolence,"
By free will gifts from all, not "Peter's Pence." (Acts 6:3)

While trustees seven depending on the people,
Meet local needs from foundation to steeple. (I Cor. 14:40)

Lady visitors on sick and strangers call
And manly ushers greet and welcome all. (Heb. 13:2)

Our Sabbath School with classes twenty-one
Home, school, and cradle roll demand attention. (Isa. 54:13)

"For Christ and Church," the motto of Endeavor,
Some sixty people are striving ever. (Eccl. 12:1)

While worthy leaders of our growing youth,
In Junior C. E. teach the way of Truth. (Psalm 71:17)

The Ladies' Aid for social cheer and money too,
Perform a noble part in what they do, (Matt. 26:13)

While through the W. M. S., at home, abroad,
Benighted fellow creatures learn of God. (Mark 16:15)

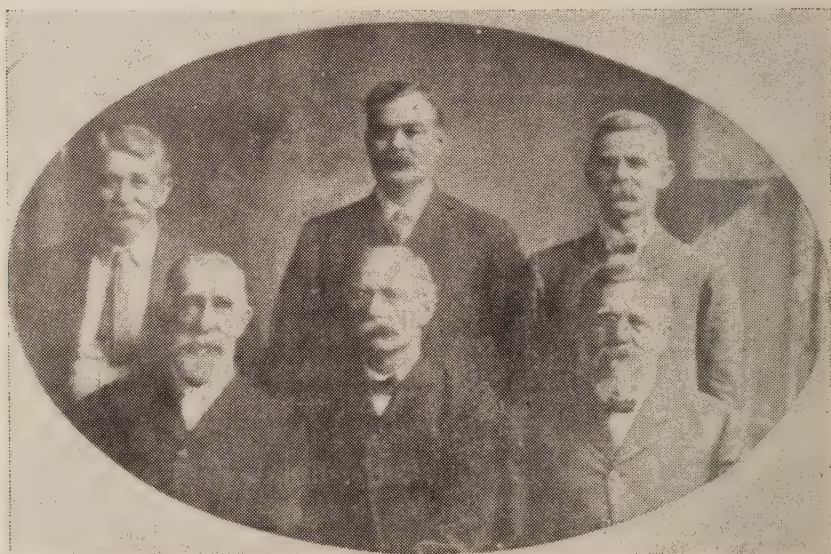
Boys' Clubs: "Americans" and "Loyalty",
Seek royal manhood for futurity. (Job 30:12)

The Brotherhood of Men strives men to win
To high ideals from ways of sin. (I Cor. 16:13)

The Choir, in anthem, hymn, and Christian song,
Would with the people's help, God's praise prolong (Psalms 87:7)

If each his place will find and never shirk,
Christ will be pleased to bless His "Church at Work." (Amos 6:4)

Yet all efficiency, success or merit
Depends alone upon the Holy Spirit. (Zech. 4:5)



The Session in 1905.

Upper Row—J. K. McGoodwin, O. J. Raymond, C. M. Manker.
Lower Row—W. W. Kirkpatrick, C. W. Jocelyn, H. C. Humphreys.

At a Congressional meeting June 28, 1905, a resolution of the Session was passed by the congregation to have at least six elders, these to hold position permanently—for life or during good behavior. The elders then serving were again elected: O. J. Raymond, C. W. Jocelyn, W. W. Kirkpatrick, J. K. McGoodwin, H. C. Humphreys, C. M. Manker. On January 7, 1906, the number of elders was increased to seven, and A. G. Young and S. F. Clark were added to the list of elders. The Board of Trustees was to be constituted of six members, two elected each year: W. W. Wampler and E. J. Pratt—three years; A. G. Young—two years; and O. C. Zaumseil—one year; and two to be elected—C. E. Matthews and J. H. Templeton. The Board of Deacons was to consist of at least four; and their duty was to take the offering each service, and make provision for the needs of the poor in conjunction with the Board of Lady Visitors.

Dr. Shepherd seems to have inaugurated the present day printed church bulletins, for he was authorized by the Session, August 13, 1905, to have 4,000 leaflets printed with a cut of the church building, the object being to have the order of services for each Sabbath printed on the inside of these leaflets. The duplex envelopes for church collections were first used in 1908.

Also in 1905, an important resolution was passed providing for suspension of members "absent and unreporting for a period of a year." This marks the definite beginning of putting members on the Suspended or Reserved list. A form of "Letter of Standing" was to set up to be given to those members absent or unreporting for more than a year who finally would desire a letter of dismissal to a church elsewhere. This letter specifically stated that such members had been absent or unreporting.

Dr. Shepherd's first historical booklet, containing a brief history of the Presbyterian church and of the Cumberland church—"Presbyterianism in Webb City, Missouri," was published in 1905, after Dr. Shepherd had been pastor a few months. His second history, "First Presbyterian Church, Webb City, Missouri," was published in January, 1909. These two historical booklets are extremely valuable, for they have preserved in an interesting and readable form, some of the history of the two churches that might have been lost.

When Dr. W. S. Knight, President of the Carthage Collegiate Institute, died suddenly in November, 1905, Dr. Shepherd helped his widow and son to carry on the college by teaching a class until Commencement, the following June.

In the local option election Dr. Shepherd was very active in the bitter struggle to make the region dry, just as his successors, Dr. Speer and Dr. Hilton, worked also for the Temperance cause.

In September, 1906, Dr. E. E. Stringfield presented the Ozark Presbytery his outlines of a plan for the publication of a history of Presbyterianism in Southwest Missouri and that part of Arkansas embraced in the Ozark Presbytery; Dr. Shepherd was

named chairman of the committee of the Ozark Presbytery to pass on this work. Dr. Shepherd's committee recommended the printing of this book, which was published in 1909 under the title of *Presbyterianism in the Ozarks*.

A very important change in the history of Presbyterianism in the Ozarks took place in 1907; that is, the formation of the Carthage Presbytery out of the old Ozark Presbytery, which from 1870 to 1907 had been the directing and governing body of the Presbyterian Churches of the district of Southwest Missouri and Northern Arkansas.

In order that this movement may be clearly understood, some explanation will be given. The Presbyterian churches of the United States are united under one general governing body, the General Assembly, made up mostly of State Synods, which in turn are formed from district groups of Presbyteries, consisting of ministers and representative elders elected by the individual congregations of each church. The Presbytery of Ozark was organized on September 29, 1870, at Greenfield, by the Synod of Missouri, and was declared by the General Assembly Enabling Act to be the proper and legal successor of the Presbytery of Southwest Missouri. Twenty-five counties of the old Southwest Presbytery were included in the new Presbytery. Later, sixteen counties in Arkansas were added and three Missouri counties transferred. Thus the Presbytery of Ozark covered much space, but contained few self-sustaining churches. As late as 1892, there were only five installed pastors in the Ozark Presbytery and five completely self-sustaining churches. It is worthy of note that the Webb City church under Dr. Reaser was one of these five.

In the early 1900's the growth and development of churches in the Ozark Presbytery was accelerated by larger efforts of self-support and by erection of church buildings. Then in 1905 and 1906 began the great movement by the General Assemblies to unite the Cumberland and the Presbyterian, U. S. A. churches. Because of these increases and of this consolidation rapidly being made in towns, wherever there were two branches—the Presbyterian and the Cumberland Presbyterian—the old Ozark Presbytery contained too many churches and was somewhat unwieldy. By an Enabling Act of the General Assembly at Columbus, Ohio, May 23, 1907, the large Ozark Presbytery was divided. The Arkansas churches were assigned to the Presbyteries of that state; and two Presbyteries were formed of the remaining counties: the Ozark Presbytery and the Carthage Presbytery.

Dr. Shepherd of the Webb City church had more to do with the formation of the new Carthage Presbytery than any other person. The General Assembly in session at Columbus, Ohio, May 23, 1907, in the Enabling Act named Webb City as the place of the *first* meeting of the newly "erected Presbytery." The counties in the Carthage Presbytery were Barry, Barton,

Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Vernon (except Shell City) and one church in Cedar County (Eldorado Springs).

The new Presbytery of Carthage held its first session at the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Tuesday, June 18, 1907, at 10 A. M. The meeting was called to order by the Rev. G. N. Williamson of the Carthage Church. Dr. Shepherd was made chairman of two important groups: Chairman of the committee to draw up the rules of the new Presbytery; and Tentative Chairman of the Home Missions with power to group the Cumberland with the Presbyterian churches and to recommend appropriations to the ministers who came in with the Presbyterian churches. He was also Stated Clerk of the new Presbytery for a time. He was named a member of the College Board Committee. Elder A. G. Young of Webb City was elected Trustee and placed on the Committee of Education and Examination; and Elder C. W. Jocelyn, on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Perhaps the most noteworthy achievement of Dr. Shepherd's pastorate was the union of the First Church with the Cumberland Church in January, 1906. That this union was accomplished without friction or loss indicates the fine Christian character of the two pastors and congregations involved. The story of this union will be given in the next chapter with the history of the Cumberland Church.

The Lincoln McConnell Union Evangelistic services, which were held in the skating rink on West Daugherty, began March 22, 1908. At this union meeting, Mrs. J. M. Hiron and Harry B. Hulett directed the singers from the Presbyterian Church; O. C. Zaumseil, C. C. Sutton, J. E. Potts, L. G. Gray, D. A. Graham were the ushers; C. M. Manker, Mrs. J. E. Potts, Mrs. E. J. Pratt, and A. G. Young were the secretaries. The services continued for several weeks and resulted in a great awakening of religious spirit in the district.

The first mention of a Sunday School picnic—an annual feature eagerly anticipated, by both youngsters and adults in the later pastorates—was made in the minutes of the Session, July 19, 1909. A street car (presumably to Lakeside) was chartered, and free ice cream was served.

The pastor reported January 10, 1909, that 365 communicants were enrolled, and that a total of 800 had joined the two churches and the united church.

Dr. Shepherd organized the boys into a "Holy Grail" club and a brass band, and the men into a Brotherhood. He taught a Men's Bible Class, the Baraka Bible Class, of about forty members.

In Dr. Shepherd's booklet, published in 1909, the officers of the Sunday School were as follows:

Superintendent, C. M. Manker.

Assistant Superintendent, W. B. Shackelford.

Superintendent of Primary, Mrs. C. M. Manker.

Superintendent of Cradle Roll, Mrs. Florence Lynch.

Superintendent of Home Department, Wayne McD. Sterett.

Secretaries, Misses Callie Purkhiser, Jessie Clark.

Treasurer, Arthur McCorkle.

Librarians, T. E. Penniwell, Norval Gray.

Choristers, J. B. Arbuthnot, Dr. Shepherd.

Teachers were, Miss Florence Glenn, Miss Madge Gaston, O. E. Beaman, J. E. Potts, Mrs. J. E. Potts, F. C. Wallower, W. B. Shackelford, Dr. C. W. Jocelyn, Mrs. E. J. Pratt, Mrs. Jack Fowler, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Fred Hastings, Miss Fannie Grigg, Miss Clark, Miss Lavina Kesky, Miss Hattie Shepherd, Dr. Shepherd.

J. E. Potts had charge of the Christian Endeavor, with the following assistants: Misses Fanny Grigg, Martha Jenkins, Tincie Grigg, Ruth Shepherd, Callie Purkhiser, Clara Wright, Jeannette Rose, Marguerite Alexander, Dr. C. W. Jocelyn, Roy Teel, T. E. Penniwell, and Wayne Sterett.

Of the Presbyterian Brotherhood, W. B. Shackelford was president and O. E. Beaman, secretary.

The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society had as president, Mrs. J. C. Cowan; vice-president, Mrs. S. F. Clark; secretary, Mrs. M. R. Lively; treasurer, Mrs. E. J. Pratt; secretary of literature, Miss Ella Walker.

Of the Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. George Wright was president; Mrs. A. Buckeridge, vice-president; Mrs. G. F. Edgar, secretary; Mrs. Cordell Humphreys, treasurer.

The members of the Session were Dr. E. W. McFarland, J. H. Templeton, W. W. Kirkpatrick, D. A. Graham, C. C. Butts, Dr. C. W. Jocelyn, S. F. Clark, H. C. Humphreys, C. M. Manker, A. G. Young, and R. C. Butts.

Trustees—W. W. Wampler (President), A. G. Young, (Church Treasurer), E. J. Pratt, O. C. Zaumseil, C. E. Matthews, and J. H. Templeton.

Deacons—O. E. Beaman, C. C. Sutton, J. E. Potts, W. C. Rackerby, H. B. Hulett, William Purkhiser, Wallace Wright, L. G. Gray, J. C. McMunn, J. M. Hirons, and Pierre M. Wallace.

That Dr. Shepherd is an able preacher, an excellent organizer, and a scholarly man of high attainments, was proved by his work at Webb City. He, as Tentative Chairman of Home Missions, successfully grouped many of the Cumberland Presbyterian churches of the district with the U. S. A. churches, the union of the two Webb City churches being a notable example of his fine power of organization. Also the formation and progress of the Carthage Presbytery was due primarily to his work and genius; and through this accomplishment the Webb City Church was brought into national prominence in the General Assembly.

The pastoral relations of Dr. Shepherd and the church were



The Session, 1909.

Upper Row—J. H. Templeton, W. W. Kirkpatrick, D. A. Graham,
C. C. Butts, Dr. C. W. Jocelyn.

Lower Row—S. F. Clark, H. C. Humphreys, C. M. Manker, A. G.
Young, R. C. Butts.

dissolved in April, 1909, Dr. Shepherd having resigned to become pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio.

Dr. W. M. Cleveland of Joplin was the Moderator for the Webb City Church during the four months' interval without a pastor. On July 19, 1909, the congregation voted unanimously for Dr. James H. Speer of the First Union Church of New York City, at a salary of \$1,500 and free use of the manse.

CHURCHES OF THE NEWLY ERECTED

CARTHAGE PRESBYTERY

1907

Aurora	Hoberg	Preston
Baker	Hopewell	Purdy
Berwick	Iantha	Red Oak
Bethel	Irwin	Richards
Big Spring	Jasper	Ritchey
Bowers' Mill	Joplin First	Sarcoxie
Carl Junction	Joplin North Heights	Seneca
Carterville	Joplin Bethany	Southwest City
Carthage (First)	Madison	Spring River
Carthage (Main St.)	Marionville	(Jasper County)
Cassville	Mars Hill	Spring River
Center Creek	Milford	(Lawrence County)
Central	Monett	Stotts City
Clay Hill	Mount Joy	Verona
Concord	Mt. Vernon	Waldensian
Diamond	Neosho	Washburn
Downey	Nevada	Webb City
El Dorado Springs	New Bethel	Wentworth
Fairhaven	New Salem	White Oak
Golden City	Ozark Prairie	Zion
Grace	Pierce City	

CHURCHES OF CARTHAGE PRESBYTERY

1942

Aurora	Joplin First	Ritchey
Carthage (First)	Joplin Bethany	Rocky Comfort
Carthage (Main St.)	Madison	Sarcoxie
Cassville	Liberty	Union
Downey	Monett	Verona
Dudman Springs	Mt. Vernon	Waldensian
El Dorado Springs	Neosho First	Webb City
Golden City	Nevada First	Wentworth
Grace	Ozark Prairie	White Oak
Hoberg	Preston	Zion
Irwin		

THE UNION WITH THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Of a truth, men are mystically united: a
mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one.

—Carlyle.

The Tentative Union of the two Presbyterian churches of Webb City—the First Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church—was voted by the respective congregations in January, 1906. This union was approved and made permanent by the General Assemblies of both churches in May, 1906.

The Cumberland Church had an honored career in the service of the Kingdom. So far as available records show, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church must have been organized July 8, 1858. This date is established by an account of the death of the last charter member, Mrs. Paulina J. Hatcher.

The first Session-Minutes book of the Cumberland Church is not accessible. The second book of Minutes of the Session of the church is now one of the precious possessions of the present First Church. This book, the first date being January 3, 1900, was neatly kept by the Clerks—W. F. Spurgin, E. A. Potts, D. A. Graham, R. C. Butts, W. P. Purkhiser, and gives the history of the Cumberland Church from 1900 to 1906.

According to Dr. J. F. Shepherd's history (1905), when perhaps other records were still obtainable or the earlier members were still living who could give accurate accounts of the church, the antecedent of the Cumberland Church was the "Union Congregation", organized July 5, 1854, with fourteen charter members. Services were held in the Union schoolhouse and at the homes of the members. In 1858, this congregation merged into the Cumberland fold. Twenty-one additional members were received into the church up to the year 1860; and one hundred and twenty-five, up to 1871. Services were held at



Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
Built in 1888.

intervals during the next six years at the Richland and Washington schoolhouses of Jasper County.

All this time, what today comprises Webb City, was farmland—principally the farm of John C. Webb. On April 26, 1877, four years after the founding of Webb City in 1873, the Cumberland organization was transferred to Webb City. Services were conducted once a month on Sundays by the Rev. M. C. Miller in a hall secured for worship, and fifteen members were received into the church the first year. The Rev. M. C. Miller and the Rev. John Thomas preached at intervals until 1883. The Rev. W. J. Hatfield was pastor for one year and added twelve members. In 1886, Reverend Dunlap began his pastorate of three years; during most of this time the services were held in the M. E. Church South in Cartersville.

Early in 1888—the same year that the First Presbyterian Church began to erect its first church sanctuary—the Cumberland group appointed a building committee to raise funds for a church house in Webb City. A church building on the corner of John (now Austin) and Liberty streets, costing \$1,200, free from debt, was dedicated September 15, 1888, when the Rev. J. McGlumphy preached the Dedictory sermon. Later improvements on the church advanced the cost to \$2,000.

When Mr. Dunlap ended his three-year pastorate in August, 1889, he had received twenty-six members into the church. The Rev. J. J. Henry preached for six months; Reverend Garrett, half time for one year, receiving twelve members; the Rev. R. W. Reynolds, a year and a half, twenty-two members entering into the fellowship of the church. In 1891, the Rev. E. B. Johnson became full time pastor. In October, 1894, the Rev. A. E. Faust began the first of his three pastorates of the church. He served one year, receiving eight members. The Rev. J. B. Fly began his four-year service in 1895 as pastor, and twenty-six members became communicants.

In January, 1900, the second Cumberland Session book of Minutes begins: Inside the front cover of this book is placed a printed memorial: "In Loving Remembrance of Paulina J. Hatcher, Born December 3, 1824—Died September 4, 1905." This memorial is signed by A. E. Faust. Mrs. Hatcher, who joined the church, July 8, 1858, was the last charter member of the Cumberland Church of Webb City. Her funeral was conducted at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. Litteral, in Cartersville, by the Rev. A. E. Faust of the Cumberland Church, assisted by Dr. J. F. Shepherd of Webb City, the Rev. A. E. Perry of Carthage, and the Rev. C. C. Berry of Cartersville; the Webb City Presbyterian choir rendered the music for the funeral service. Mrs. Hatcher was the mother of our own Mrs. Willa Stoller, and the grandmother of Mrs. W. C. Burch of Cartersville.

The Cumberland Church elders listed in 1900 were J. M. Moore, who died December 3, 1901; R. T. Hurley, elected Octo-

ber 1, 1888; W. H. Stevenson and J. H. Templeton, elected June 3, 1897; C. C. Butts, re-elected June 3, 1897; Dr. R. H. Burney, elected July 25, 1901; R. C. Butts and E. A. Potts, elected May 5, 1902. Deacons of the church for the same period were W. F. Spurgin, J. H. Irvine, David Graham, William Purkhiser, and Wallace Wright.

Some of the older and especially prominent members in the earlier years of the church besides Mrs. Hatcher, were Thomas Alexander, Milton Stephenson, Mrs. Rebecca Stephenson, J. A. Hurley, and M. L. Jones. At the time the second Session book began, those who had been active members a long time were Mrs. Lizzie Spurgin (1871), R. T. Hurley (1877), Mary Smith (1877), W. F. Spurgin (1880), J. H. Templeton and Mrs. F. C. Templeton (1883), and Mrs. Rosetta Hurley (1884).

The minutes for May 24, 1900, show that the chairs used since the church was built, were disposed of and pews purchased at a cost of \$318.00. The church floor was carpeted by the Ladies' Aid Society at a cost of \$97.57; the church was painted outside and the belfry repaired. Total improvements amounted to \$501.01.

In 1900, the Rev. J. S. Stapleton, who became pastor in 1899, resigned to attend the Theological Seminary at Lebanon, Tennessee, resignation to take effect October 1; however, illness prevented his attending the college. A. E. Faust began his second pastorate, April 19, 1901, at a salary of \$500, and served for three years (with an increase of salary the second year), and received into the church twenty-seven members.

A record for December 29, 1901, gives a tribute from Cumberland Church, Sunday School, and Endeavor Society, to J. M. Moore, who passed away December 3, 1901. He had been Superintendent of the Sunday School for nine years; a member of the Session for a long time and was always present; a worker in the Endeavor Society and a faithful attendant at prayer meeting. The tribute speaks of his "sterling manhood, noble Christian character, and useful life."

The church contributed to the cause of Church Erection, Ministerial Relief, Education, Home and Foreign Missions during these years.

When W. F. Spurgin, who was Treasurer and Clerk and also Sunday School Superintendent, moved to Joplin in 1902, E. A. Potts was elected to fill the vacancy as Clerk; and an expression of appreciation of the Session and congregation to W. F. Spurgin for his efficient and generous service was spread upon the minutes.

In 1903, the budget plan was worked out by Elders R. T. Hurley and J. H. Templeton. The Sunday School officers this year were R. T. Hurley, superintendent; E. A. Potts, assistant superintendent; Pansy Hurley, secretary; Marvin Spracklen, treasurer.

When the Rev. A. E. Faust left in 1904, the church tendered

him a note of thanks and wrote to the *Cumberland Presbyterian Magazine* of his efficient service.

The Rev. Lawrence Bone was unanimously elected pastor, May 15, 1904. During the years from 1904 to 1905 the Church Extension Board had paid \$12.50 a month on the pastor's salary. In August, 1905, this help was withdrawn; therefore the church gave Mr. Bone a chance to make his own arrangements for the future. Then Mr. A. E. Faust began his third pastorate at a salary of \$50 a month with the privilege of preaching at other places. During the period from 1900 to 1905 four series of revival meetings had been held; among the revival ministers were the Rev. G. F. Harbour and Dr. J. F. Shepherd.

On the last day of December, 1905, a very important meeting of the Session was called by the Rev. A. E. Faust to decide whether or not the Cumberland Church should arrange for a union with the First Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., of Webb City. After a long consideration lasting the greater part of a day, it was decided on motion of R. T. Hurley, seconded by C. C. Butts, to call a Congregational meeting, January 4, 1906, to take immediate steps to arrange a tentative union, and to call to their assistance the Rev. W. C. Hicks of Springfield, Missouri, to lay the matter properly before the congregation.

At the Congregational meeting, January 4, 1906, Articles of Agreement of the Union were considered item by item and finally accepted by the congregation. The decision was referred to the Session of the First Church, which adopted the articles of agreement on the same date.



Cumberland Church Session, 1905.

C. C. Butts

J. H. Templeton

R. T. Hurley

E. A. Potts

R. C. Butts

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT: Between the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri. In order to form a Tentative Union and prepare for a Permanent Union of the two congregations, we, the authorized representatives of the respective congregations, do, on the behalf of the said congregations, sign the following Articles of Agreement:

First.—That the place of worship and all religious gatherings in general shall be the First Presbyterian Church, and the pastor of that congregation, the Rev. J. F. Shepherd, D. D., Ph. D., shall be the pastor of both congregations and Moderator of each Session and of the Joint Session.

Second.—That the separate Sessions, each presided over by the pastor, shall have jurisdiction over the membership composing each body respectively and shall provide for their representation in their respective Spring Presbyteries. The Joint Session, composed of the acting Elders of both congregations, shall have control of matters of worship and of the ordinances; of the working out of all details or organization of the various departments, not herein provided for, and for the care of all interests in which each organization is mutually interested, the officers of each church retaining their active official capacity in the Permanent Union.

Third.—The property of the separate congregations, during the continuance of this Tentative Union, shall be in the hands of the separate Boards of Trustees; but the two financial boards shall, in consultation, decide upon the matter of support for local interests, including pastor's salary.

Fourth.—This Tentative Union shall become permanent when the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, each meeting May next, shall pronounce the Union between the two denominations consummated, at which time all the property of the separate congregations shall become the property of the United Church.

Signed by the authority of their respective congregations—January 4, 1906.

First Presbyterian Church

H. C. Humphreys

C. W. Jocelyn

J. K. McGoodwin

O. J. Raymond

W. W. Kirkpatrick

C. M. Manker

Moderator Dr. J. F. Shepherd.

Cumberland Presbyterian Church

R. T. Hurley

C. C. Butts

J. H. Templeton

R. C. Butts

Moderator A. E. Faust.

One of the most beautiful and remarkable things in the history of both churches was the procession on Sunday, January 14, 1906, at 9:30 A. M., when the Cumberland Church members with their Sunday School marched in a body from their church to join the First Presbyterian congregation and Sunday School. No doubt there were some tearful eyes and some "lingering looks behind", among the older folk, who had precious associations and beautiful memories of Christian services in that dear little church sanctuary. Like St. Paul, these faithful souls resolutely, "forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth into those things which are before", passed for-

ward to the larger life of the "greater church of God in Christ Jesus", which would be possible under the combined strength and work of the two churches.

In the minutes of January 7, 1906, written after January 14, by W. P. Purkhiser, Clerk, we read the following: "Having learned through their pastor that the Session of the First Presbyterian Church had adopted the Articles of Agreement for the consummation in the Tentative Union, the congregation agreed that on January 14, we should meet at the church at 9:30 A. M. and go to the Presbyterian Church in a body, which plan was carried into effect in a very happy way. The Sunday School, amounting to 234 in attendance, was followed by the Communion Service in which both pastors participated. The Junior and Senior Endeavor Societies were also united; and with the conclusion of the evening service, the Rev. J. F. Shepherd, according to the Articles of Agreement, assumed the charge of the united congregations, the Rev. A. E. Faust retiring in a manner which was entirely creditable to himself and his congregation."

The last record of the Cumberland Book of Minutes is dated January 11, 1906, in which it was stated that letters of dismissal for Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Potts were sent to the Joplin Presbyterian Church; and instructions were given to the treasurer to pay \$2.50 toward the incidental expenses of a revival meeting that had been held at Cartersville during December by the Rev. A. E. Faust.

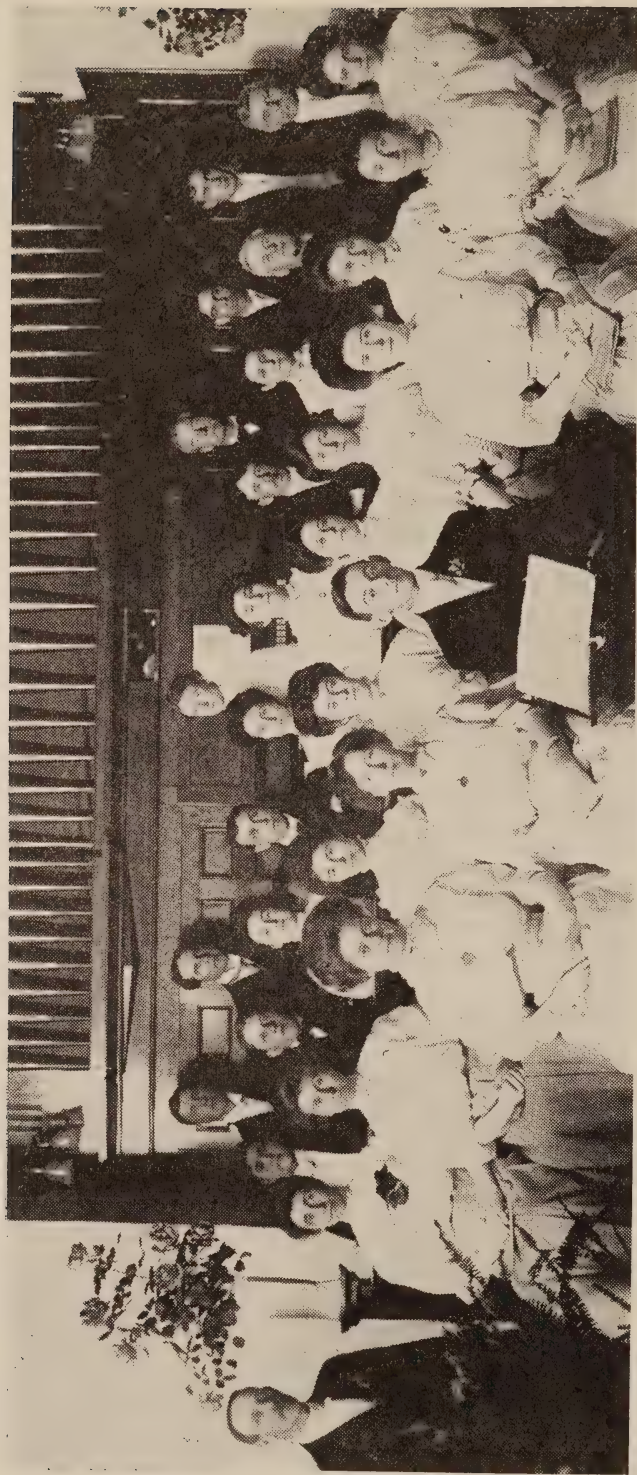
The Cumberland group made arrangements to send R. T. Hurley as delegate and C. C. Butts as alternate to the Cumberland Presbytery, which met at Cassville in February. From January 14, 1906 to May 1, 1906, when the Tentative Union became permanent by Acts of the General Assemblies of the Cumberland Presbyterian and the Presbyterian, U. S. A., Churches, the two separate groups of elders met together, the Cumberland elders not voting. After June first, R. T. Hurley (the father of Mrs. O. B. Landrum and Mrs. J. F. Gudgen) and J. H. Templeton (the father of Mrs. J. F. Lewis and grandfather of Leonard Purkhiser and Miss Callie Purkhiser, and of Misses Fern and Bernita Lewis), C. C. Butts and R. C. Butts (both serving a long time afterward) were made members of the Session of the united group of the First Presbyterian Church. The union of the two churches was finally ratified by the Ozark Presbytery, September 12, 1906.

E. E. Stringfield's history of *Presbyterianism in the Ozarks*, page 15, has this statement: "Ten days before this (July 1, 1906) by order of the Presbytery, a church was organized in the populous mining city of Cartersville. The reunited church of Webb City agreed to give the new church the building that had formerly belonged to the Cumberland Church, worth about \$2,500; the prospective members of the new church purchased the lot, and the Board of Church Erection was asked for \$500

to defray the cost of moving and placing the building. Thus the wisdom of the reunion became apparent."

The First Presbyterian Church contributed 174 members and the Cumberland, 72 to the union. The records of the First Church, signed by C. M. Manker, show that the Session on July 1, 1906, empowered the pastor, Dr. Shepherd, to grant letters to any and all members of the church who might present themselves as charter members of the new church being organized at Carterville. The minutes of July 8, state that the pastor had granted letters to the following persons who had become charter members of the new church at Carterville: Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ault, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Hurley and daughters, Fleeta and Pansy; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sanders and son Aubrey; Mrs. F. R. Beardsley, and Misses Maggie Fain and Sarah Stephenson. The Reverend Balthasar Hoffman, assisted by Dr. J. F. Shepherd, organized the new church at Carterville with thirty-one members, and was its first pastor. R. T. Hurley and J. C. Sanders were elected first elders. In 1908 the Carterville Presbyterian Church had a membership of 73, and a Sabbath School of 125. The Webb City Presbyterian Church under Dr. Shepherd sponsored the new church, of which Dr. G. F. Harbour later was pastor for several years before he went to the Carthage Church.

Thus ended a very interesting period of a church history, of which the members of the First Church are as proud as of their own. Moreover, the Cumberland members have proved their worth through the years.



THE CHURCH CHOIR, 1908

Top Row: W. P. Purkhiser, J. C. Fowler, Mrs. Latta McCroskey (Organist), Dr. C. W. Jocelyn, Roy Teel, Roy Bennett.
 Third Row: Burch McCullum, Ben D. Reynolds, Miss Caroline Hacker, E. E. Wood, Mrs. Rufus Holder, Mrs. J. M. Hiron, George H. Fullerton, Miss Annie Moore, W. B. Shackelford, C. M. Manker.
 Second Row: Dr. J. F. Shepherd, Mrs. Willa A. Stoller, Mrs. E. W. McFarland, Miss Florence Glenn, Miss Leila Bruce, Miss Carrie Sutton, Mrs. Joseph McCollum, Mrs. Ben D. Reynolds, Mrs. George H. Fullerton.
 First Row: Miss Kate Sutton, Mrs. Pierre Wallace, Harry B. Hulett (Director), Mrs. J. C. Fowler, Mrs. Florence Holliwood.

Omitted from picture: Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, Mrs. T. J. Roney, J. B. Arbuthnot.

DR. JAMES H. SPEER ACHIEVES THE SUPPORT OF A FOREIGN PASTOR.

1909 - 1913

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord:
And he delighteth in his way."

—Psalm 37:23.

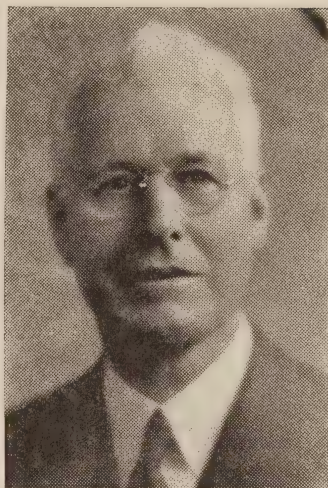
Dr. James H. Speer stayed only four years at Webb City; but during that short time he made a lasting impression upon the lives and hearts of the congregation, who speak of him always with esteem and affection. Dr. Speer came to Webb City on July 25, 1909, and was installed Wednesday evening, November 3.

The Webb City *Daily Sentinel*, November 4, 1909, tells under the heading, "Visiting Divines Install Dr. J. H. Speer", that Dr. John B. Hill of Kansas City, the Rev. O. C. Cude of Carterville, the Rev. Elbert Hefner of Carthage, and Dr. W. M. Cleveland of Joplin, were in charge of the installation. The choir under the direction of H. B. Hulett gave an excellent rendition of Thickett's "Te Deum" and Brander's "Sometimes a Light Surprises".

Who's Who in America, 1942-1943, gives a good biography of Dr. Speer, from which the following brief story of his life has been mostly obtained:

James Henry Speer, church official, was born in Limestone, Pennsylvania, June 11, 1867, the son of James Washington and Mary Ann Speer. He was graduated from Park College, Missouri, in 1893, and attained his Doctor of Divinity Degree from that institution in 1908. He was a student of the Wesleyan Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1893-1895, and was graduated from the McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, in 1896.

Dr. Speer married, May 12, 1886, Mary Catherine Titzell, who died August 30, 1898. One daughter of this union, Mary Catherine Speer, is today a talented author. On October 10, 1900, he was married to Jessie E. Irvin, who passed away July 19, 1915. Dr. Speer married Margaret Caldwell Gehrett at Los Angeles, California, August 1, 1917, and there is one son, Lloyd Gehrett. Mrs. Speer has been president of the Minnesota Council of Church Women, and is a member of the Executive Committee on the National Council of Church Women. She is a trained mu-



The Rev. James H. Speer, D.D.
1942

sician, having studied voice in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York City.

Dr. Speer was ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. in 1896. He was pastor successively at Gardner, Kansas; North Church, Denver; San Bernadino, California; First Union Church, New York City; Webb City, Missouri; and Orange, California, until 1916.

He left Webb City to take up a very important position—that of Superintendent of Home Missions for the Synod of Missouri, 1913-1914; he has held these other high positions which also have given him national prominence: Superintendent Los Angeles, California Presbytery, 1916-1919; Secretary New Era Movement, Pacific Coast, 1919-1921; Secretary General Council Eastern District, 1921-1924; Associate Secretary General Council, 1925-1929; Executive Secretary Church Extension Board of Minneapolis, Minnesota Presbytery, 1929; formerly President Minneapolis Church Federation, and now Executive Secretary. Although he is past the retirement age of both the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, yet by special request of the Methodist congregation at Mound, Minnesota, he is pastor of the Methodist Church, though always a Presbyterian. He has been a contributor to a number of religious and educational magazines.

An article in the *Minnetonka Pilot*, dated October 5, 1939, is as follows:

"The Rev. James H. Speer, D. D., was appointed at the Methodist District Conference at Duluth last week to the pastorate of the Bethel Methodist Church.

"Dr. Speer is the Executive Secretary of the Minneapolis Church Federation and will continue that work in conjunction with his duties here until the Federation is able to replace him, after which he will give full time to the local church.

"'Who's Who in America' describes Dr. Speer as a Pennsylvanian by birth, having the usual college and theological training required by the high standards of the Presbyterian Church—a man who has held important pastorates and executive positions in the church.

"He is an advocate of a spirit of cooperation in those works in a community which all Christian forces can do together, firmly believing that there is enough work in Mound for all existing churches."

The second record book of Minutes of the Session ended March 31, 1907. A new loose-leaf Session record book then was adopted. This third Session book begins June 16, 1907, in the middle of Dr. Shepherd's pastorate and ends January 12, 1939, at the end of Dr. Hilton's pastorate; it covers a period of thirty-two years. This matchless Book of Minutes is a work of art—beautiful, accurate, and complete. The book is typewritten and has in the margin topical summaries of the contents of each record of minutes. Two different names of Session Clerks are signed to this book; that of C. M. Manker, from 1907 to 1920, and that of O. B. Landrum, from 1920 to 1939.

Again and again, one notes that the Session book is commended highly by the Presbytery, both for Mr. Manker and Mr. Landrum; and the Webb City Session books have been set up as models for other churches. For example, on page 230 of this third record book is this statement of approval:

"Minutes approved without exception at the Presbytery at the Bethany Church, Joplin, January 26 and 27, 1926, and especially commended for neatness and clarity.

T. A. Lampton, Moderator."

Never before has the writer of this history realized that personality can be revealed in the writing of such business-like and apparently prosaic articles as minutes. These minutes have been so faithfully and accurately kept that they will be precious to posterity.

Then, another very important revelation is made by these minutes, "rich with the spoils of time": the character of the fine men who have served as members of the Session. One reading the minutes is impressed with the fairness and sense of justice of these men, their honesty of opinion, their careful study of all issues confronting the church, their open-mindedness, their courtesy and consideration of others, their grateful appreciation of services rendered to the church, and their earnest devotion to the cause of religion and to our own Presbyterian Church.

The interesting events and achievements of Dr. Speer's pastorate will now be given briefly.

A special hymn book committee, composed of C. W. Jocelyn, Harry B. Hulett, O. C. Zaumseil, Mrs. J. M. Hirons and E. E. Wood, recommended the purchase of one hundred additional copies of the book then being used, *Spiritual Songs*; and the Session ordered the extra copies on November 24, 1909.

The *Sentinel*, dated March 21, 1910, tells of the Presbyterian Church choir's giving fine presentations for Passion Week of two lovely sacred cantatas by Dudley Buck, under the skillful direction of Harry B. Hulett. On March 20, "The Story of the Cross" was given, with Mrs. J. M. Hirons, soprano; Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, contralto; George H. Fullerton, tenor; E. E. Wood, bass—as the soloists. On Easter, March 27, in the cantata, "Christ the Victor", the soloists were Mrs. T. J. Roney, Mrs. J. M. Hirons, sopranos; Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, contralto; Messrs. J. B. Arbuthnot, G. H. Fullerton, tenors; Messrs. L. R. Reynolds and E. E. Wood, basses. Mrs. Thomas McCroskey was the organist, and there was a choir of thirty voices.

A notable musical event, in which many of the Webb City Presbyterian Church took part, occurred April 25, 1910—the great musical festival of Jasper County at Carthage in connection with the visit of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. A festival chorus of singers from Joplin, Carthage, and Webb City rendered *Stabat Mater* by Rossini, under the leadership of Carl Busch of Kansas City. Of the thirty-eight singers from Webb City, twenty-three were from the Presbyterian choir. Among these were Mesdames J. M. Hirons, T. J. Roney, J. R. Kuhn, Ben D. Reynolds, Wallace Wright, Willa Stoller; Misses Madge Gaston, Glenna Warthen, Carrie Sutton, Abbie Morton, Katherine Sutton, Marguerite Alexander, Anna Moore, Lillian Wilbur; Messrs. L. R. Reynolds, H. B. Hulett, C. W. Jocelyn, Ben D. Reynolds, J. B. Arbuthnot, E. E. Wood, L. L. Purkhisier.

The Annual Congregational Meeting, which had been held

in January, was changed to April so that the reports of all the departments of the church for the church year could be presented at the meeting, thereby giving those present some idea of the work of the church as a whole. The date of this change was January 5, 1910.

The preparation of the Communion Table was delegated to the Board of Deacons, April 10, 1910.

The Budget Plan for Benevolences and church expenses was adopted, April 27, 1910, Elders D. A. Graham and A. G. Young having been named to work out a plan with the pastor. Pledge cards were printed in connection with this plan. The budget for 1910-1911 was set at \$4,250. Graded lessons for the Sunday School were adopted in 1910.

At a meeting of the Session held on January 5, 1910, the following very important resolution was presented and passed by a unanimous vote of the Session:

"Resolved, that it is the sense of the Session that we return to the Rotary system of electing elders; and in order that this change may be recommended to the Congregational meeting to be held the early part of April of this year, that we, the present elders, present our resignations to the congregation at that meeting and recommend that the Rotary system be adopted in electing elders to fill the vacancies."

At the Congregational meeting, April 6, 1910, the resolution was read with the resignations of the entire group comprising the eldership: A. G. Young, C. W. Jocelyn, E. W. McFarland, H. C. Humphreys, C. M. Manker, S. F. Clark, D. A. Graham, W. W. Kirkpatrick, R. C. Butts, C. C. Butts, J. H. Templeton. The resignations of the elders were accepted; then the same elders were re-elected with the provision that they determine among themselves who should serve one, two, and three-year terms. Elders J. H. Templeton and C. C. Butts were each made Elder Emeritus. As three additional elders were necessary to make the number twelve, F. E. Hitner, W. B. Shackleford, and Harry B. Hulett were elected. Mr. Hulett declining the office, J. B. Arbuthnot was elected for a three-year term.

On April 1, 1912, at the Congregational meeting the Board of Deacons was abolished in order to unify and consolidate the church duties and offices; the duties of the Board of Trustees, which seemed heretofore to include direction of church finances and missionary funds, were limited to holding of the title of the church property; the eldership was increased to fifteen, W. W. Wampler, R. S. Nichols, and W. P. Purkhiser being added to the Session.

Harry B. Hulett began his long career as Church Treasurer in 1911. Some of the preceding treasurers had been S. L. Manker, J. P. Stewart, J. A. Bowman, A. G. Young, L. G. Gray, D. A. Graham. Sometime later, the Session gave Mr. Hulett a vote of thanks for his beautifully-kept treasurer's book and accurately itemized reports, which made their work much easier.

Dr. Speer, early in his pastorate, October, 1909, established

an unusual feature of church services, which many adult and younger members of his congregation at that period speak of today as being especially inspiring and valuable in Christian work. This was the organization of a Junior Congregation, to whom Dr. Speer preached a five to ten-minute sermon during the morning service. Dr. Speer reported in 1910 that the Junior Congregation numbered fifty-two. These Juniors, now adults with families today, still remember the stories of "Johnny Appleseed", "The Borrowed Grave", "The Little Switch Engine", and many others—all of which illustrated in a very beautiful and forceful way important religious truths.

A church bulletin dated Sunday, January 8, 1911, has this program:

James Henry Speer, Pastor.

Sunday School at 9:30 A. M.

Meeting of the Session for Prayer in the Pastor's Study at 10:45 A. M.

Morning Worship at 11:00 A. M.

The Organ Prelude—"Processional Hymn"—Dubois.

The Doxology—The People Standing.

The Invocation—The People Standing.

The Hymn—No. 20.

The Reading of the Scriptures.

The Sermon to the Junior Congregation—"The White Horse and the Lion."

The Hymn—No. 251.

The General Prayer.

The Offering.

The Offertory—"Song"—Booth.

The Anthem—"Praise Ye The Lord"—Hahn.

The Sermon—"A Field and A Force."

The Closing Prayer.

The Benediction.

The Postlude—Tannhauser March—Wagner.

Highly successful Union Revival Services under Dr. E. J. Bulgin, a noted evangelist, were conducted in the late spring of 1911.

The minutes for October 19, 1911, state that a Junior Christian Endeavor had been organized under the leadership of Misses Madge Gaston and Jeannette Rose, and that the first meeting was held on Saturday, October 14.

Harry B. Hulett, who had directed the choir for several years, resigned on April 19, 1911. A vote of thanks from the Session was unanimously extended by a letter to Mr. Hulett "for his long, faithful, and efficient services as choir director". However, Mr. Hulett continued to serve most of the time until nearly 1913.

Miss Bell of Joplin was engaged as organist at \$30 a month from October 7, 1911, to July 1, 1912.

In 1911 the congregation, deeply appreciative of Dr. Speer's ministerial and pastoral work, increased his salary to \$1,700.

A very interesting happening in this period (but "Off the Record") was the winning, by two Presbyterian ladies, of the

Sentinel Subscription Contest—in which an automobile was the grand prize, and a piano, the second prize. Mrs. T. F. Coyne and Mrs. J. M. Hirons entered the contest to get the automobile for their pastor, Dr. Speer. With the assistance of the congregation in taking subscriptions, and especially with the help of T. F. Coyne, who bought many subscriptions, the ladies “went over the top”, and Dr. Speer had a fine, red motor car, while copies of *The Sentinel* went to every state in the Union for the next five years. This indeed was quite a gift and quite a feat, “away back yonder” in 1911, when no such things as tire or gasoline rationing could lessen the Reverend Doctor’s enjoyment of the use of his car, when he took his wife to Colorado for her health.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Roney deeded to the church in 1912 a lot in Dermott’s Addition as a site for a house which was on the lot north of the church building; and the Session expressed a resolution of appreciation of this gift. Later the Ladies’ Aid Society paid for the moving of the house to this lot; and the house was rented and the money applied on the church revenues for several years, until it was finally sold.

Dr. Speer was the first pastor to have a paid assistant or secretary. Miss Madge Gaston (now Mrs. J. G. Hilton) was selected in 1912 by the committee appointed by the Session—Elders W. B. Shackelford and C. M. Manker, and Dr. Speer—as a part-time secretary. Her work carried over into the next pastorate for about two years.

The Statistical Report to the Presbytery for the year 1911-1912, gives one a good idea of church affairs in Dr. Speer’s pastorate.

Contributed to Boards:	
Elders 12	
Deacons 6	
Total Communicants in 1911.....	332
Communicants received	21
Communicants dismissed	15
Deceased	3
Net total Communicants.....	353
Baptism—Adults 10—Infants 6	
Sunday School—	
Officers and Teachers S. S. ...	25
Pupils	207
Total Enrollment	232
New Scholars	30
Cradle Roll	35
Average Attendance	145
Adult Classes	4
Number from S. S. into	
Church	19
Contributed to Boards.....	\$55
Expense of School	\$283
Home Missions	\$ 184.00
Foreign Missions	1,000.00
Board of Education.....	10.00
Board of S.S. Work.....	30.00
Board of Church Election	8.00
Board-Ministerial Relief..	40.00
Board of Freedmen.....	25.00
Board of College	10.00
Board of Temperance	80.00
Total to Boards.....	\$1,387.00
American Bible Society..	5.00
General Assembly.....	49.80
Congregational Expenses	3,314.00
Total	\$4,755.80

The report of the Woman’s Missionary Society by Mrs. H. G. Gaston, president, shows some of the excellent work accomplished by twenty-five women.

Paid to Foreign Missionary Board	\$ 48.00
Paid to Home Missionary Board	43.00
Paid to Freedmen Board	8.00
Special Offering (Sitka)	5.00
Special Offering Ozarks	5.00
Thank Offering	1.00
Total	<u>\$110.00</u>

Ten dollars was pledged by the Society to the salary of the Foreign Mission Pastor. In this same year the Senior Endeavor Society paid \$82.75 for Missions—a splendid record for the young people.

Nor had the Ladies' Aid Society been idle. For the year ending March, 1911, according to Mrs. C. M. Manker, treasurer, the Society had paid out the following: \$95 for a fence around the manse; \$9.27 for dishes for the church; \$27.85 for work on the interior of the manse; \$379.20 for note on the manse and interest thereon to C. E. Matthews; \$50 for insurance; \$66 for tax bills and interest on curb and gutter on Ball street. These and smaller items totaled \$674.01. The money for this was raised by giving rummage sales, dinners, church suppers; by subscription, by sponsoring a concert, and Mr. Matthews' generous rebate on the note.

In 1912 the Ladies' Aid Society, as reported by Mrs. W. S. Chinn, treasurer, paid out \$1,194.72—the larger disbursements being \$530 for Joplin (Broadway) street improvements; \$250 loan to the Budget committee; \$201.72 for moving the house from the church lot to the lot given by Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Roney, and improving it; \$82.55 for repairs on the manse.

On May 28, 1912, an interesting article appeared in the Webb City *Sentinel* about the Presbyterian Aid Society's clearing \$200 from a unique and enjoyable entertainment—"Trip Around the World—Best Entertainment of the Year." The trip started at Boston, the home of Mrs. R. S. Nichols, which was replete with spinning wheels, Indians and Pilgrims, to say nothing of Boston baked beans; then a journey was made to Holland, with "cute" Dutch maids near a large electrically-lighted windmill and wonderful exhibits of Dutch Cleanser, secured from the Cudahy Company by Carroll Berrian; next the party traveled to Spain, the land of lovely maidens and grandees playing guitars and tambourines, and of skilled bullfighters (but Ferdinand the Bull, a yearling calf, refused to fight); later to Panama Canal, set up in sand and with views taken by Fred M. Hulett when he made a trip to the Canal Zone; next to India at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. McCroskey, where the delightful snake charmer, Miss Georgiana Richardson, performed amid incense, salaams, and "Sahibs"; then to Japan, the land of flowers, kimonos and Geisha girls; and finally back home to Washington, D. C., where under canopies of American flags, President and Mrs. Taft welcomed home the travelers.

The refreshments served at each place visited were appropriate for the scene, and evidently were not reducing diets. Every moment was filled with thrills—thus the newspaper article summarized the events of the evening.

In 1911, Elder F. E. Hitner, Chairman of the Missionary Committee of the Session, suggested a Men's Dinner, to take place early in March, with a guest speaker for inspiration. This was the beginning of the very popular and successful series of Men's Dinners. Several excellent ministers and lecturers appeared at these dinners, among these being Dr. Black of Missouri Valley College and Judge Hawthorne of Kansas City. Mr. Hitner reported that a hundred men attended the Men's Dinner meeting, October 26, 1911. The Session passed a resolution November 8, 1911, which expressed appreciation to the Ladies' Aid Society:

"The Session, realizing the value to the work and spiritual life of the church of such gatherings as the Men's Dinners, and appreciating the fact that their success is to a great extent due to the unselfish work of the Ladies' Aid Society in furnishing without money and without price these splendid dinners, requested Dr. Speer personally to convey to the society the commendation, appreciation and sincere thanks of the pastor and Session, and express to the society the Session's conviction that the service thus rendered the church was of greater worth than a sum of money they might otherwise have placed in the treasury."

The high point of these dinners was reached January 28, 1913, when Dr. Robert E. Speer, internationally known speaker, minister, and missionary, was the honored guest and speaker at the Men's Dinner, the Men's Bible Class being in charge of the dinner arrangements.

In April, 1913, the Statistical Report showed the total contributions for the year 1912-1913 had been \$7,534.50; of this amount \$1,186 went to the church boards and \$6,300 for congregational expenses. There were fifteen elders and six trustees. Eighteen new members had been received into the church that year, and thirty baptisms recorded.

Dr. Speer was actively interested in both Home and Foreign Missions. The minutes record his doing missionary work in McDonald County in places having no contact with churches.

The outstanding achievement of Dr. Speer's pastorate was his inspiring the Webb City Presbyterian Church in 1911 to assume full support of a Missionary Pastor, the Rev. George H. Winn of Fusan, Korea, at \$1,000 a year. Evidently the project had been presented to the church early in the year 1911, for we read this report of Elder Hitner, of the Missionary committee of the Session, February 6, 1911:

"For we note with interest the amount subscribed toward procuring a Missionary Pastor, and suggest that we commend this movement to the congregation and invite a general subscription."

On Wednesday evening, March 8, 1911, the following report was submitted to the Session by the Missionary committee:

"We, the undersigned respectfully report that the amount for the support of the Foreign Pastor has been so nearly promised, that we recommend that the Session instruct the chairman of our committee to notify the Board of Foreign Missions, and guarantee \$1,000 per year for his support.

Respectfully submitted,
F. E. Hitner, Chairman
W. B. Shackelford
J. B. Arbuthnot."

The church continued to support the Missionary Pastor for the next four years. This great missionary project brought both the pastor and the Webb City Church into prominence in the Missouri Synod and the General Assembly. As a result, Dr. Speer was offered a position which would enlarge his sphere of service—the Synod Superintendent of Home Missions in the State of Missouri—an offer that one with Dr. Speer's vision of missionary labors could hardly refuse.

Dr. Speer resigned on March 14, 1913; and on March 23, the congregation accepted his resignation, with this statement:



F. E. Hitner

Chairman of the Missionary Committee of the Session.

"While it is the sense of this congregation that we dislike to see Dr. Speer sever his connection with this church as pastor; but believing he can do a greater work in the field into which he is called, we feel it is our duty to acquiesce in his wishes, and ask the Presbytery to dissolve our relations as pastor and congregation. It is with feeling of deepest regret that we see Dr. Speer go from us."

During Dr. Speer's pastorate, 110 were added to the church roll; and the total number of communicants when he left was 335; of the Sunday School, 236.

Dr. J. H. Speer's letter dated June 1, 1942, is an interesting commentary on his experiences at Webb City and his life since that time:

"My pastorate at the first Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri, was in no way spectacular. The church followed the even tenor of its ways, happily and usefully, according to the accepted pattern of church life and activity at that period of the general church life throughout the denomination. My going to Webb City was a bit dramatic. I had resigned my pastorate in the heart of New York City, coming to the Central West again and seeking a better climate, less congested living conditions for the health of a member of my family. I had preached at the church on its invitation Sunday; and on Monday morning while I was being taken to the railroad station, the automobile driven by Mr. Wampler got into a serious mix-up with two interurban cars. I was reported through the Associated Press as being fatally injured. In fact, I was not seriously hurt. An enterprising tombstone company, having made a note of the accident, solicited Mrs. Speer, trying to sell her a tombstone

for her deceased husband, who by that time was actively at work in the Webb City church. The call was extended to me while I was out of commission. The people had been so gracious to me while I was laid by that I was glad to have the privilege of living and working with them.

"I conducted a Bible class on week day afternoons for about twenty-five very choice young women in their late teens and early twenties. It was a great joy to me, and was the beginning of an intimate friendship that is enriching even to this day.

"There was an advance in the church which turned the whole course of my life. The church assumed support of their own Foreign Missionary. It meant an increase of over ten fold of their past giving. The church had been contributing about \$100 to the Board of Foreign Missions. The church pledged \$1,000 for their own Missionary. I did not deserve the credit I received. All I did that was unusual was to manifest the temerity to suggest it. Good people with the means did the rest. It was that act on the part of the church which was the cause of my being called into the promotional and executive work of the church at large, in which I spent my life after leaving Webb City. The Boards had the optimistic idea that I could do that for the whole church. If I could have only taken the Webb City church with me, I might have met their expectations.

"Then followed the various activities over a period of almost thirty years: Superintendent of the Home Missions for Missouri, Executive Secretary of Los Angeles Presbytery, Secretary of the New Era Movement for the Pacific Coast, the same for the Atlantic Coast, then Secretary of the General Council for Promotion having responsibility for the promotion of all the Boards and Benevolences for the entire church. Although I retired by the age limit rule of the church while Executive Secretary of Minneapolis and Minnesota, the Minneapolis Church Federation elected me their Executive Secretary. I retired from that office three years ago to give them an opportunity to secure a younger man for a long time program. My Methodist neighbors here in this suburb where we have had our home, petitioned the Methodist Administration to appoint me the minister of the local Methodist Church. The age retirement rule of the Methodist Church should have retired me again this year, but my beloved people and community so decidedly insisted that I be continued, that I am here, happy, well, and a Presbyterian—the Methodists did not even hint that I change my denominational relationship—if and when I have to retire the third time, I'll join the marines.

"My ministry at Webb City was a very happy one, almost entirely free from friction. I know that I grew in grace, and I feel confident the spiritual life of many of the people was enhanced. Abiding friendships among a very choice people were formed which readily quicken into life even after all these years of hard and happy vicissitudes."

Dr. Speer has returned to Webb City many times and has occupied the pulpit; and it is with great joy that he and his friends of the Webb City Church meet again. His delightful personality, his fine and sweet magnanimity of character, his illuminating scholarship, and his highly spiritual nature, make him one to be revered and remembered always.

Dr. W. M. Cleveland of the Joplin First Church was again Moderator during the period the church was without a pastor.

DR. JOHN G. HILTON ORGANIZES SCOUT WORK
—INSPIRES THE BUILDING OF THE ANNEX.

1913 - 1938

"A man he was to all the country dear—

* * * * *

To them his heart, his love, his griefs were given,
But all his serious thoughts had rest in heaven."

—Goldsmith.

The Webb City Presbyterian Church was very fortunate in the selection of the Rev. John G. Hilton in 1913, to follow the devout and capable Dr. James H. Speer, for he not only carried on the excellent work of his predecessors in a masterly way, but he spent over a quarter of a century as pastor of the church. Like Chaucer's pastor in "The Canterbury Tales", Dr. Hilton constantly refused offers of more prominent positions including some from Kansas City and St. Louis, for he felt that he could give his best service to his Lord in this community. No doubt the enchantment of the Webb City environment and people had its influence upon him as it has had upon many others. Dr. Hilton himself has declared that the fine attitude of sincere appreciation of the Webb City congregation has been very precious to him. A real and lasting affection has been reciprocal between this veteran pastor and his congregation.



The Rev. John G. Hilton, D.D.

John George Hilton was born near Belfast, Ireland, and his Scotch-Irish descent can be readily recognized today from his genial humor. At the age of three he was brought by his parents to America; and the family settled near Cohoes, New York, where his early childhood was spent. Later the family moved to Luzerne (near Saratoga Springs), New York. Here the future minister received his public school education. He then attended for three years a preparatory school, the Classical Institute, in Schenectady, New York, and afterwards had four years of college work at Union College. During his student days

at Union College, he played on the college football and baseball teams. In his pastorate here Dr. Hilton has demonstrated that even an interest in games and sports can be used to forward the Master's cause.

It was during his junior year at Union College that John G. Hilton made the momentous decision to enter the ministry; and, after spending nearly forty years as Presbyterian minister, he not only has never regretted his choice of a vocation, but is deeply grateful that he was led by the call of God.

Mr. Hilton attended for three years the Theological Seminary of Princeton University, where he received a degree in theology. He has many interesting memories of his college days at Union College, when Dr. Edward Everett Hale, Jr., was one of his professors, and at Princeton during part of the period that Woodrow Wilson was president of the university.

The young minister's first pastorate was at White City, Kansas, where in a year and a half he was instrumental in building a manse and uniting the small congregations of the Presbyterian and Congregational churches into a forceful, active group. As pastor at Mankato, Kansas—his second charge, where he spent almost two years, he made the church self-supporting. These first two charges were Mission churches.

In 1903, Mr. Hilton was called to a self-supporting church at Beloit, Kansas. During part of his six-year pastorate there, he coached a very successful high school football team, which in 1903 defeated one of the Kansas champion teams—the Topeka High School eleven. An auditorium was built on the church during his stay at Beloit. Nearby Concordia, Kansas, was the next scene of his ministerial labors; and during his pastorate of four years, a new church building was planned and started.

Then, on May 25, 1913, the Webb City congregation voted to extend a call to the Rev. John G. Hilton at a salary of \$1,800 a year and free use of the manse. Mr. Hilton accepted the pastorate after a committee of the Session—A. G. Young and W. W. Wampler—had prevailed upon him to come to Webb City; and he preached his first sermon on a hot Fourth of July, 1913. He was installed on October 1, 1913, Dr. W. M. Cleveland, Dr. J. D. McCaughtry, and the Reverend Hatfield being in charge of the installation service.

Mr. Hilton was married in 1913 at White City, Kansas, by Dr. W. M. Cleveland, to Miss Margaret Mayhew, a school teacher, who was a worthy helpmate in all his ministerial work. Daughter of a woman noted for her piety and service—Mrs. David Mayhew, Mrs. Hilton was highly intellectual and deeply spiritual. For sixteen years she taught the Women's Bible Class of the Presbyterian Sunday School, and was considered one of the ablest teachers in the district. She was especially interested in missionary work and inspired others to missionary service. Also, her faithful and capable labors as sponsor of the Youth groups of Christian Endeavor Societies will always be a monu-

ment to her in the hearts and lives of the young people of the church who, under her spiritual leadership, have grown to noble manhood and womanhood. Although stricken with a lingering illness, Mrs. Hilton continued to serve as a teacher almost to the very last, when on May 18, 1929, she passed to her heavenly home. One of her favorite passages, Romans 8:28, motivated her undaunted spirit, her absolute faith in God's goodness, and her inspiring life: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

In July, 1930, Dr. Hilton was married in Kansas City, by Dr. George Baity, to Miss Madge Gaston, one of Webb City's attractive and talented daughters. The entire congregation were invited to the wedding, and many made the trip to Kansas City to attend the ceremony. Mrs. Hilton, formerly a music teacher, has a beautiful soprano voice, and has been a member and soloist of the church choir for many years, as well as a capable and faithful worker in the other church services. She has taken earnestly her mission as a pastor's wife, and has been an active and understanding assistant in Dr. Hilton's manifold duties.

Only the Recording Angel could give all of Dr. Hilton's splendid work in Webb City—the helpful, kindly deeds done in an unostentatious way, unknown to most people except to those whom he has helped. He has particularly assisted young people to find themselves and live up to the best that is in them. He, as a mentor, has given sympathetic advice in all their problems, and has aided many to secure an education and a good position; but most of all, by his beautiful example of a noble life, well-lived on the heights, has he inspired and guided young lives.

Dr. Hilton's special interest in youth and its problems led him to organize with C. C. Harris, the first Boy Scout Troop in the district—Troop 25. On the south wall of the Annex banquet room hangs the original charter of Troop 25, dated October 18, 1916. The name of C. C. Harris was signed as Promoter, Dr. J. G. Hilton as Pastor, Rufus S. Lane as Scoutmaster. Kenneth Glazer and Eugene Hudson were early Scoutmasters; and Whitson Kirk, who was assistant Scoutmaster, has ably assisted Dr. Hilton and the Scoutmasters to the present time. Troop 25 has been noted in the Tri-State district for its achievements and for its number of Eagle Scouts—thirty-six. Lee Daugherty, Jr., was the first Eagle Scout; and Frank Lewellyn, the second. The Eagle Scouts who are now in the armed forces of the United States are Dick Hulett, Elroy Hulett, J. D. Corl, Jr., George Wiggins, J. B. Thompson, Richard Thralls, Ray Hill, Jr., Bob Joe Baker, Robert Heilman, William Myers, and Raymond Magruder. The ninth Eagle Scout was Leroy Skinner; having been refused admission into the United States Air Force because of a slight disability, Leroy joined the R. A. F. of England in 1940, and has made his name and that of Webb

City famous on two continents by his daring achievements as an airplane pilot officer in action over France and Germany. His plane shot down, he extricated himself from the burning plane, and is now a prisoner in Germany. His recent letters to his parents show his fine courage and sanguine spirit. Other Eagle Scouts are Dick Bentley, Gene Julian, Ward Wampler, Jack Barnes, John Bentley, Charles Bunce, Eugene Hall, Jack Parrish, Jay Fussell, Alton Adams, Clifford Vradenburg, Thomas Towniland, Kenneth Smith, Charles Galbraith, Henry Hulett, Bob Duncan, Bill Corl, Leonard Riggs, Paul Rawson, Jr., Billy Baker, Rob Roy Ratliff, and William Address.*

Dr. George W. Cox, Scoutmaster and chairman of the Court of Honor and Board of Review, for several years, and John A. Skinner, member of the Troop Committee or Board of Directors of the Scouts and also of the Court of Honor and Board of Review, and Dr. Hilton, were given the Silver Beaver, a national honor for outstanding service—the highest award of merit in Scouting. Dr. Raymond Kuhn, Beverley Bunce, Cecil Bentley, Harry B. Hulett, Gaylord Goodwin, and Roy Thomas, have been assistant Scoutmasters. Paul Rawson, Sr., has worked as the Cub Scoutmaster; and William Waggoner, as Sea Scout Skipper.

An article in the church *Bulletin* dated February 16, 1936, states that Roy Teel was made an honorary member of Troop 25 for his kindly attention to the troop, especially in furnishing ice cream free on certain occasions.

At one time the Webb City Presbyterian Church sponsored all Scout organizations—Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Sea Scouts and Mothers' Auxiliary. A very fine Girl Scout Troop—No. 2—has done much to develop young womanhood of the church and town along the finest lines of service and character. Mrs. M. S. Slaughter introduced and organized Girl Scout work here. Mrs. R. M. Stormont was another organizer and counselor of Troop 2. Fifty girls joined the first troop of Girl Scouts. Members of the Executive Committee have been Mrs. B. C. Aylor, Mrs. A. V. McCorkle, Mrs. C. B. Nance, Mrs. L. V. Galbraith, and Mrs. W. C. Myers. Other Girl Scout workers of our church have been Mrs. Hugh Wilhite, Miss Genevieve Lott, Miss Bernita Lewis, Mrs. B. P. Ramey, Mrs. Eli Switzer, Mrs. Paul Rawson, Mrs. Harvey Newell, Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser, Mrs. Dorsey Watson, and Mrs. O. H. Crocker. When Mrs. W. C. Myers was counselor in 1937, the first Brownie Pack was organized; and this group started the first Red Cross swimming lessons here. The present officers of the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts will be named in the Church Directory.

In connection with his Scout work, Dr. Hilton has been chairman of the Court of Honor and the Board of Review of the Webb City-Carterville-Oronogo-Atlas district of Boy Scouts, and

*Since this history has been written, nearly all the Eagle Scouts have gone into the armed forces of our country.

a member of the Council of the MoKan area of that group. Dr. Hilton was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Webb City area of Boy Scouts of America for several years.

Two of the many fine things achieved in Dr. Hilton's pastorate were the paying off the entire church indebtedness and the dedication of the church.

When Dr. Hilton first came to Webb City, there was a debt of \$3,200 including \$700 to the Board of Church Erection that had not been paid, and the Church Sanctuary had not been dedicated. The debt had originally been over \$5,000; so one can see that much work had been done toward reducing this debt in previous pastorates. The first thing that was accomplished was the borrowing in May, 1915, the full amount of money to pay off the outstanding debts scattered among several agencies of Webb City and the Board of Erection, and to put the amount borrowed in one place. On November 18, 1915, Elders W. R. Robertson and J. B. Arbuthnot were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions to pay off the indebtedness. This committee reported on January 5, 1916, that the entire amount of \$3,200 had been raised; and they were given a vote of thanks by the Session.

The church was dedicated on June 11, 1916. Elders C. M. Manker, F. E. Hitner, and J. B. Arbuthnot were named the Dedication Committee of the Session. Dr. James H. Speer preached the Dedictory Sermon. At this time a brief history of the church was prepared for the back of the sheet of Responsive Reading for the Dedication Service. The choir, under the supervision of Mrs. J. M. Hiron, gave two lovely anthems.

The book of Minutes of the Session, church bulletins, and newspaper articles show other interesting events and accomplishments during Dr. Hilton's pastorate, a few of which will be taken up in this history somewhat in detail and others, briefly.

In June, 1914, the Session appointed W. B. Shackelford and C. M. Manker as a committee to write to the Board of Foreign Missions asking that the Webb City Church be relieved of its obligation toward the support of a pastor in the foreign fields, because, with the uncertain conditions in the mining field, it was difficult for the church to keep up this work and pay to the other church boards, too. The Foreign Mission Board relieved the church of its obligation in July. In 1915 the church paid to the various boards \$1,849, and \$1,500 for evangelistic services locally (Statistical Report, year ending March, 1916), in addition to the congregational expenses of \$6,042. The greater part of time from 1920 to the depression period, the church paid approximately \$3,000 each year for Benevolences, divided among the various church boards of Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Education, Sabbath School work, Church Erection, Relief and Sustentation, Freedmen, Temperance, Evangelistic

work and Bible Societies. The Webb City Church has been noted in the Carthage Presbytery for its amount of Benevolences as compared with the size of the congregation. Even during the depression of 1932, the Webb City Presbyterian Church's quota was set at \$1,000, which the church successfully raised; later in 1937, the church paid \$700 a year to Benevolences.

The pastor's salary was raised to \$2,400 a year in 1916, then to \$3,000 in 1920, by an appreciative congregation. When the depression came in 1932, Dr. Hilton voluntarily requested that his salary be reduced to \$1,800, the amount he started with.

The interior of the manse, which had not been entirely finished when Dr. Hilton came here, was completed. The large lecture room back of the church auditorium was partitioned into four Sunday School rooms in 1917, at a cost of \$600. In 1918 the church bought a lot at Hollister, Missouri, for \$100 to help support a place for the Hollister meetings.

Dr. J. F. Shepherd returned in July, 1918, to visit his friends in Webb City and to give a scholarly and illuminating lecture on the Holy Land. Dr. James H. Speer, by special invitation, again occupied the pulpit, June 25, 1922, while Dr. Hilton was attending the International Sunday School Convention in Kansas City. On October 11, 1933, Dr. Speer was the honored guest at the Men's Bible Class Breakfast at Lafalot Lodge; he preached at the church services of the day, and was given a reception in the afternoon at the home of Mrs. C. M. Manker to meet all his old friends.

The minutes show that Dr. Hilton, during most of his pastorate, was much in demand for revival services and other unusual services in the churches in Missouri and Kansas. At an urgent request from the Temperance Board of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Hilton was released by the Session, in 1918, from church duties during the month of October to give lectures and to work in the field for the Temperance cause.

On May 12, 1920, Harry B. Hulett and Ben D. Reynolds were named to purchase and install an electric motor for the organ to replace the water motor. This motor cost \$389.74 and was installed October, 1920, by Mr. Reynolds without charge for service. A note of appreciation was given to Mr. Reynolds for the splendid contribution. Mr. Hulett and Mr. Reynolds might be called 'guardians' of the pipe organ, for they both have served effectively in keeping the organ in good condition.

(Also "Off the Record") An article from the Webb City *Sentinel*, dated November 9, 1921, has this heading: WEBB CITY BABY WINS KISS FROM MARSHAL FOCH. CHARLES MANKER BUNCE IS SO HONORED BY WORLD CELEBRITY AT AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION. It seems that Charles (a little over one year old), who was on the Presbyterian Cradle Roll, was attending the Third National Convention of the American Legion in Kan-

sas City with his father, Beverley Bunce, a World War veteran; and that the great Marshal Foch and other noted generals were housed only a few doors away from the place where the Bunces stayed. When the Bunce party, with several other families, went to shake hands with the famous man, Marshal Foch singled out the Webb City baby from all the other babies, with complimentary remarks, and took the child into his arms and gave him the French medal of honor—the kiss. Charles now is studying for the ministry. Evidently the astute Marshal Foch noted something unusual in the boy at an early age.

Several very notable and fruitful evangelistic services were held during the years 1913 to 1937. The great Union Evangelistic Services, conducted in a tabernacle on Roane street by Dr. Charles Reign Scoville in March, 1915, brought many members and spiritual blessings to all churches participating: the Central Methodist, the First Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Christian, and the First Baptist. The Presbyterian Church did its part in furnishing music and personal evangelism, and paid a great share of the finances. In March, 1928, the Guy Wilson Union Evangelistic Services accomplished great results in a religious awakening of the town. Among the Presbyterian revival services that emphasized a "return to religion" and resulted in renewed consecration of the members and in adding new communicants, were those in 1921 of the Rev. David McCleve of Nevada; and in 1926, of Guy Green, Layman Evangelist of Dr. Harry C. Rogers' church of Kansas City.

The Wednesday evening study of missionary books for a six-week period in the fall and spring, under the supervision of the Woman's Missionary Society, was started in 1919, and marked the beginning of the "covered dish" suppers in connection with this study.

"The Every Member Canvass" as such, was first mentioned in 1920; and Ben D. Reynolds was named as chairman—a position which Mr. Reynolds has held more than any other member of the church. Suffice it to say that he that doeth well is rewarded by being given more to do.

A Teacher Training Class for the Sunday School was again organized in 1920, the first class having been started in 1913 with Mrs. W. S. Chinn as the teacher. The Teacher Training Class in later years has been conducted by Dr. J. G. Hilton and the Rev. L. J. Kovar.

In 1920, a heating system was installed in the manse; in 1924, the church furnace was repaired. The heavy iron rail placed on the south side of the front steps of the church in 1925 was made *gratis* by the Webb City and Carterville Foundry and Machine Works; and a note of thanks from the Session was sent to F. B. Loomis, General Manager of the Company. T. J. Roney was made chairman of the Session committee working with the Ladies' Aid for the redecoration of the church in 1925.

In 1923, new Sunday School Song Books to replace the *Hymnals for Youth* were purchased. A committee composed of Mrs. W. C. Ball, J. D. Baldridge, Sr., Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, made the very excellent choice of *Hymns of Praise No. Two*. In 1934 about 100 copies of the church hymnal used at the present time were purchased through the efforts of the church choir to secure subscriptions; the Women's Bible Class, the Kate Cameron Pratt Class, the Men's Bible Class, and other classes donating money, and many individuals giving one dollar. Mrs. J. M. Hirons, J. D. Baldridge, Sr., Mrs. W. C. Ball, Mrs. J. G. Hilton, and E. E. Wood, were members of the committee to select the hymnal. The committee finally decided upon *The Hymnal*, published by the authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, first printed in 1933. This hymnal has preserved "the rich treasures of the heritage hymns of the Church"—many fine old tunes from Calvin's Psalter; Lutheran, English, Welsh, Irish, Scottish, Scandinavian, and Wesleyan hymns and tunes; and it has much new poetic material. The hymns are classified under topical headings and for services on special days and occasions, such as the Lord's Supper, Memorial Days, Ordination and Installation, Dedication of a Church or of an Organ. It also has a Psalter with Responsive Readings classified for certain days, subjects, or occasions; e.g., vesper or evening service, Dedication, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the like. Then a number of short prayer hymns or orisons are included to add beauty and reverence to the service.

The Session voted, January 25, 1925, to ask a lady of the church to take charge of the Communion Service. Those ladies acting in this capacity have been Mrs. A. G. Young, Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. E. J. Pratt, Mrs. T. J. Roney, and Mrs. C. C. Harris, who at present has supervision of the preparation for the Communion Service. Faithful assistants have been Mrs. E. W. McFarland, Mrs. L. V. Galbraith, Mrs. A. L. Hosman, Mrs. O. B. Landrum, Mrs. R. M. Stormont, Miss Caroline Hacker, and Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser.

Early in his pastorate, Dr. Hilton was asked by the high school graduating class to preach the Baccalaureate Sermon. Each succeeding class almost unanimously voted for Dr. Hilton to preach the sermon for many years, until the Board of Education made a ruling about 1930 that there must be a three-year interval before the same pastor preaches the Baccalaureate Sermon again.

On April 8, 1928, Andrew Moore Wise was baptized with water brought from the River Jordan by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hal M. Wise. Miss Treva Gunning received the Sacrament of Baptism, April 9, 1933, with water which she herself had dipped from the Jordan River.

The church has been generous in permitting the use of the basement for youth work: the various Scout organizations sponsored by the church since 1916; the Hi-Y, meeting under Y. M.

C. A. Secretary Riley, 1921; a group of paper carriers in 1922, and many other youth groups. All these have had the privilege of using the church without charge for fuel or lights.

In 1922, the church joined the movement of the Trolley League Ministerial Alliance for the closing of Sunday theatres in the district.

A disastrous tornado, which swept nearly everything in its path in a course two miles long and two or three blocks wide, on the east side of Webb City (South Hall, East Daugherty, and North Elliott streets) occurred on October 31, 1922, and left death and destruction in its wake. The Presbyterian Church members as a group and as individuals worked day and night to alleviate suffering, and gave generously to help those whose homes had been destroyed.

The Statistical Report for the Presbytery dated March 31, 1921, is interesting from the fact that it shows what the church could do before the depression. This report includes contributions from all organizations. There were 278 active communicants, 23 having been placed on the suspended roll. Total to Boards amounted to \$2,650, of which \$987 went to Home Missions; \$739, to Foreign Missions; \$221, to Relief and Sustentation. The Congregational expenses were \$4,449.82, and the grand total for the year was \$7,099.92.

The Sunday School for the same year had a total membership of 257 including twenty officers and teachers, with an average attendance of 162. The total money raised by the Sunday School for the year ending March, 1921, was \$808.29, and including a balance of \$119 from the preceding year, amounted to \$927.16. The local expenses of the Sunday School were \$427.96, of which \$339.79 was paid for Sunday School supplies. The Sunday School gave in Benevolences \$427.96, distributed as follows: Canton Hospital \$50; S. S. Work \$75; S. S. Missionary \$50; Magyar Fund \$5; Offering for Near East \$185; Chinese Famine Collection \$86.68. The following questions were answered affirmatively: Do you have a Young People's Teacher Training Class? Do you observe "White Christmas"? Do you observe Father-and-Son week with a banquet? Do your young people take part in the Athletic Meet? Will you observe Mother-and-Daughter week? Will you be represented at Young People's Conference at Hollister?

Fire and Tornado Insurance in 1924 was the following: Fire Insurance on the Church Building \$5,000, on the Organ \$5,000, on Fixtures \$1,000; Tornado Insurance on the Building \$6,000, on the Organ \$4,000.

A vote of thanks was sent to Ben D. Reynolds in 1925 for furnishing an electrician to restore the organ motor. A new furnace was installed in the church in November, 1927. This with repairs in the basement, plastering, and painting was reported on February 1, 1928, to have cost \$1,100, part of which was paid by the Ladies' Aid Society. In October, 1935, new parts

for the furnace cost \$265. The Aid Society paid in 1932 the cost of re-roofing the manse; also in the same year these indispensable ladies paid \$227.50 for redecorating the church and refinishing the floors.

In 1928, a mysterious thing happened. The big question was, who built the garage for Dr. Hilton's car? The Session record dated April 4, 1928, says: "The Clerk was instructed to determine who is responsible for the erection of a garage on the manse lot, and send a vote of thanks to the donor." After some investigation the mystery was finally solved: C. E. Matthews was the generous donor of the garage as a token of his personal regard for Dr. Hilton.

On January 15, 1929, the Session passed a resolution written by Walter Martin protesting against a proposed gasoline filling station opposite the church on the northeast corner of Ball and Broadway, on the grounds that it would be an increased hazard for Sunday School children and would decrease the value of the church property. This protest resulted in the abandonment of the plan to locate the station across from the church.

The two printing companies of Webb City have been generous in their services in printing the church bulletins and other material, for the remuneration asked by the printers has not been commensurate with the time and labor involved. The Switzer Printing Company began the printing of the bulletins in Dr. Shepherd's pastorate, and continued for nearly twenty-five years. Although cost of materials and labor increased during the First World War, the Switzer Company did not increase the original price asked for printing the bulletins—\$1.50 for each Sunday's issue. Hal M. Wise, of the Webb City *Daily Sentinel*, has printed the bulletins since 1930, and has manifested a liberal spirit in his dealings with the church. The Session record for September 7, 1932, has this statement: "The matter of discontinuing the publication of the *Bulletin* was discussed; and since the cost is practically all donated by the printer, it was agreed that this publication should be continued." Mr. Wise has kindly given publicity in the *Sentinel* to all church projects and programs. About 1930 the number of church bulletins printed for each Sunday was increased to 150; after 1934, quarterly financial statements were printed in the *Bulletin*.

A "Men's Night", "Ladies' Night", "Young People's Night", on Sundays before Easter in 1932 were decidedly successful in stimulating interest and enthusiasm in church work. Miss Nelle Redding brought her boys' choir into the church service for special occasions in 1934, and their music was greatly appreciated by the congregation.

In 1929, Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews financed the movable platform which was added to the pulpit for programs. Mr. A. K. Mills paid for printing of the Church Roster in 1931. When

Mrs. W. A. Corl broke up housekeeping in 1938, she generously gave two valuable and useful things to the church: her cook stove and her piano, both of which are extremely serviceable in the Annex. Later Mrs. T. F. Coyne paid for the cabinets for the choir robes. Mrs. Ida Forlow recently presented the ladies of the church an electric mixer, which they proudly display in the Annex and constantly use at every church dinner or luncheon. Also Mrs. Forlow had made a contribution for the building of the Annex.

One feature especially noticeable in Dr. Hilton's pastorate was the cordial and cooperative relations of the church with other churches. Not only in revival meetings and on Thanksgiving and Good Friday were there Union Services, but special series of Union Services were arranged. We note in the Session minutes of January 30, 1935, that a Union Mid-week service was held on the first Wednesday of each month during February, March, and April: the first one at the Central Methodist Church in charge of Dr. J. G. Hilton; the second, at the First Methodist Church in charge of the Rev. Z. M. Williams; the third, at the Presbyterian Church in charge of the Rev. Chas. T. Orr. A special Preaching Mission by local ministers of the Council of the Webb City Churches was held in the Presbyterian Church, November 15 to November 23, 1936; and in 1937 a three weeks' series of pre-Easter services was held in the two Methodist and the Presbyterian churches. Not long after the Memorial Park was established, Union Services on Sunday nights in the months of July and August were started by the Presbyterian, the Central Methodist, the First Methodist churches; and later the Christian and Emmanuel Baptist churches joined. Dr. Hilton inaugurated these services at the park while he was president of the Ministerial Alliance. A. K. Mills, with the help of Sam Roberts, who was the custodian of the Presbyterian Church for many years, solicited all the subscriptions for park benches from the business firms of Webb City; and the benches were made, painted and set up under the direction of the church custodian.

C. M. Manker's last record of minutes was dated November 10, 1920. On December 28, this Great-Heart passed to his eternal reward. All through the years, his keen mind and facile pen had never faltered in his duties as Clerk of the Session, nor had that stalwart soul diminished its zeal for establishing God's kingdom on earth. Devoted, courageous, and magnanimous, he had the spirit of a real Crusader of the Cross. One who never knew him, except from reading his minutes, has a feeling of sadness in perusing those last notes.

In the Session Minutes Book are printed copies of resolutions passed by the Sunday School and the Session. The Sunday School Resolutions, signed by Mrs. Ben D. Reynolds, Miss Amy Burd, and F. E. Hitner, are quoted here in part:

"Whereas: Our Heavenly Father in his unerring wisdom, has called from among us to a higher fellowship, Charles M. Manker, whose long, loving, and efficient service has given him a place in each of our hearts, and

"Whereas, we realize the great loss sustained by our church and our Sunday School in his going:

"Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Sunday School extend to his family its warmest expression of sympathy, with the prayer that God, who had need of his service in the world beyond, may comfort them and give them courage to bear their loss.

"Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family, that a copy be spread upon the minutes of the Sunday School, and a copy be given to the press for publication."

The Resolutions of the Session, which are signed by J. D. Baldridge, Sr., E. W. McFarland, and T. J. Roney, and dated January 5, 1921, are prefixed with the following statement by O. B. Landrum:

"A committee from the Session was appointed to draft resolutions to show our appreciation of Mr. C. M. Manker, Clerk of our Session, and one of the most consistent members of the Session. It was duly ordered that these resolutions be transcribed upon the records of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City that we may better preserve the memory of the life and character of the subject of these resolutions." Part of the resolutions are given here:

"In this hour of bereavement we have met to show our respect for the memory and mourn publicly the loss of one of our members, a faithful brother and co-worker. Charles M. Manker sleeps with his fathers. The early history of the church is full of the acts and deeds of Charles M. Manker. Take from its pages his good work, and you will remove from our church history its choicest character. Not only in the church do we find his life active, but in the business activities of this city is also found a rich harvest of successful achievements.

"Now he has gone to receive his reward for his moral worth and Christian character, which no human hand can bestow nor human mind conceive—the Master's reward of 'well done, good and faithful servant.'

"As a member of the Session, he faithfully discharged every duty assigned to him with fidelity to the church. His kindness to all people, his firmness of convictions, his unflinching integrity made him one of the outstanding citizens of this community. And thus he passed to his eternal rest.

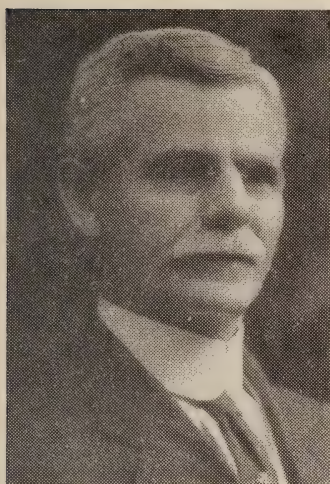
"Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City:

"First—That in the death of Charles M. Manker we mourn in common with the people of the community a pure citizen, a true friend, and a Christian gentleman;

"Second—That we respectfully tender to his family our sincere sympathy in this hour of bereavement;

"Third—That these resolutions be engrossed and sent to the family of our friend and brother."

Mr. Manker's mantle, as Clerk of the Session and Superintendent of the Sunday School, fell upon another consecrated



C. M. Manker

Clerk of Session, 1902-1920

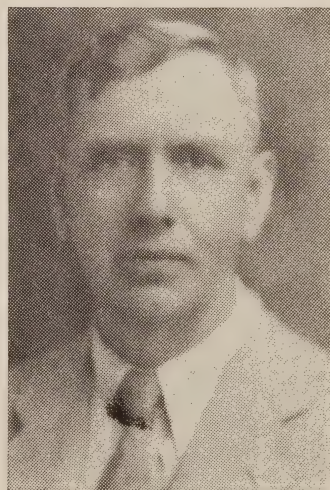
been Robert Hitner, L. V. Galbraith, B. P. Ramey, John Davisson—all of whom were also faithful, earnest, and competent. At present writing, Mrs. Beverley Bunce is keeping up the splendid record of her father, C. M. Manker, in carrying on the work as Sunday School Superintendent.

Most of the assistant superintendents in recent years have become superintendents; yet other names should be given recognition for service. W. B. Shackelford was assistant superintendent for many years up to 1918, and also taught a young men's Sunday School class; Robert Landrum was assistant to B. D. Reynolds, and at the same time was the Sunday School song leader. Harry B. Sutter, principal of the high school, was an assistant superintendent in 1936 and 1937.

J. D. Baldrige, Jr., has held the very important and exacting position as secretary and treasurer for the Sunday School since 1926; and so capable has he been that it would be with the greatest reluctance and regret that he would be released. Up to 1923, there was a separate secretary and treasurer. Frank Hitner had been the efficient treasurer of the Sunday School several years. Miss Anna Corl (Mrs. L. R. Reynolds) capably

Christian gentleman, also devoted, conscientious, and capable—O. B. Landrum. He has written the Minutes of the Session for nearly twenty-five years and has kept the book beautifully and accurately. Mr. Landrum was Superintendent of the Sunday School almost ten years; then a somewhat severe illness forced him to give up one of his heavy church duties. The Women's Bible Class, assisted by other classes of the Sunday School, presented Mr. Landrum on his retirement with a beautiful and comfortable lounge chair as a token of their appreciation of his services.

After Mr. Landrum, Ben D. Reynolds did excellent work as Sunday School Superintendent, for a few years. Other superintendents have



O. B. Landrum

Clerk of Session since 1921

held the position of secretary both in Dr. Speer's and in Dr. Hilton's pastorate. After Mr. Hitner's death in 1923, the two positions were combined. Then W. P. Purkhiser, who had been secretary, carried on the combined work of secretary and treasurer until Mr. Baldrige took the work.

Assistant secretaries to J. D. Baldrige have been William Waggoner, Bruce Waggoner, J. D. Corl, Jr., Charles Wiggins, George Wiggins, William Corl, Richard Lewis, and John Benward.

In connection with the Sunday School work in general in Dr. Hilton's pastorate, the name of Aimee S. Reynolds should be given *summa cum laude*. For many years until her death, July 12, 1930, Mrs. Reynolds gave earnest and untiring efforts to guide the young people of the Sunday School to Christian living. Of her, the passage in Revelations 2:10 is literally true: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

The Sunday School paid tribute to the memory of Mrs. Reynolds, and had it printed in the church *Bulletin*, July 20, 1930, signed by Mrs. A. V. McCorkle, Miss Henrietta Crotty, J. D. Baldrige, Jr.

"We, the officers and teachers and pupils of the First Presbyterian Sunday School, join in the many tributes that are being paid to the memory of Mrs. B. D. Reynolds, whose untimely death took place, July 12, 1930.

"We share with the school, the church, and the community in its immeasurable loss of one who contributed to the finer things of life, giving to her church and school much of her valuable time, always intensely interested in the upbuilding of every department of our school, attending Sunday School conventions and conferences, in order that she might have latest information concerning her department.

"Ever ready to do her part in every worth-while affair, she gave generously from her rich experiences, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to the best things of this community, and also leadership and direction for the common good.

"We shall miss her kindness, her tender sympathy, her encouraging words of cheer, for although modest and gentle, she was strong and courageous in the line of duty and for the right. Her memory will be held in grateful remembrance by the teachers, pupils and entire community who have been greatly helped, not only by her instruction, but by kind treatment and helpful words."

Mrs. W. W. Waggoner was another devout and talented woman who labored unceasingly as long as she was able in every department of the church, especially as superintendent of the Intermediate Department of the Sunday School for several years, as teacher of a Sunday School class, and as an inspiring officer and member of the Women's Bible Class. When she passed away, February 22, 1935, the church suffered a distinct loss. Beautiful memories of her lovely Christian character and winsome personality will always be a guiding influence to those who knew her.

The church bulletins give again and again these names of the faithful women workers of the Sunday School during Dr. Hilton's pastorate: Mrs. C. M. Manker, superintendent of the Beginners and Primary Department; Mrs. O. B. Landrum,

assistant superintendent and Sunday School teacher, and officer of the Women's Bible Class; Mrs. J. D. Baldrige, Sr., supervisor of the Primary Department; Mrs. A. V. McCorkle, director of the Junior Department; Mrs. W. J. Cochrane, of the Intermediate Department; Mrs. Myra Ferris, of the Beginners Department; Mrs. L. V. Galbraith, of the Primary and Intermediate Departments; Mrs. E. J. Potts, Home Department. Other workers in the various departments have been Mrs. Ralph Rodkey, Mrs. Jack Ball, Mrs. Charles Stults, Mrs. B. F. Crain, Mrs. R. E. Brown, Misses Fern and Bernita Lewis, Mrs. Mary Bellairs Newell, Mrs. Madge Gaston Hilton, Mrs. Harry B. Hulett, Mrs. B. C. Aylor, Mrs. C. C. Harris, Mrs. T. J. Roney, Mrs. B. P. Ramey, Miss Dorothy Roney, Miss Virginia Waggoner, Miss DeEtta Williams, Miss Bess Buckeridge, Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser, Mrs. Lewis Burris, Mrs. C. R. Haughawout, Miss Eloise Davisson, Mrs. Dorsey Watson, Miss Betty Slaughter, Miss Caroline Starkweather, Mrs. Helen Hatten, Mrs. W. C. Myers, Mrs. Paul Rawson, Mrs. Carroll Berrian, Mrs. Earl VanHoose, and Mrs. Hugh Wilhite.

The Men's Bible Class, of which A. G. Young and T. J. Roney were highly capable teachers for many years, has always been an active force in the Sunday School. When the two classes of older men and younger men united early in 1930 with Ralph Rodkey as teacher, the class attendance and interest was increased, the banner attendance at one time being 145. Other excellent teachers of the class in Dr. Hilton's pastorate have been O. B. Landrum, S. W. Bates, E. C. Giles, J. D. Baldrige, Sr., Paul Rawson, Sr. At present George W. Lott is doing fine work as an inspiring teacher of this class.

The Women's Bible Class has been a valuable asset to the church, financially, socially, and spiritually, from early years of the church. Contributing unstintingly to all church expenses, such as redecoration of the church, the pastor's salary, church equipment, Christmas tree decorations, Christmas treat and Christmas baskets; sending young people to Hollister; subscribing liberally as a group and as individuals to the building fund for the Annex; furnishing a room at Park College; donating to civic enterprises, to P. T. A. Milk Fund, W. C. T. U. projects, Red Cross, Easter Sunrise Service, Community Chest Fund, Jane Chinn Hospital—this class has made its influence felt far and wide through the years. In the First World War this class helped support "war orphans", and gave liberally to war relief; in the present war, the class is helping with Red Cross work, U. S. O. activities and many other things in the war effort. The collections of the class have been in most years between \$200 and \$300; the annual report of the class given by Mrs. L. G. Gray, April 16, 1919, shows that the total amount raised by the Women's Bible Class for the year was \$531.43. In the year ending March, 1942, the collections of the class amounted to \$237.40. One special project of this splendid group of Christian



WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS, 1942

Standing: Mrs. Ben D. Reynolds, Mrs. George W. Lott, Miss Fannie Grigg, Mrs. F. B. Loomis, Mrs. George Nealy, Miss Caroline Hacker, Mrs. M. E. Mumma, Mrs. T. J. Roney, Mrs. C. C. Harris, Mrs. W. C. Wood (Asst. Secy.), Mrs. C. E. Hall, Mrs. L. L. Ashcraft, Miss Callie Purkhiser, Mrs. C. R. Chinn, Mrs. E. E. Wood. Seated: Mrs. W. W. Wampler, Mrs. Louise Coyne (Custodian of Birthday Fund), Mrs. O. B. Landrum (Secy. of Literature), Mrs. W. C. Ball (President), Miss Henrietta Crotty (Teacher), Mrs. J. G. Hilton (Vice President), Mrs. B. A. Dumbauld (Secretary), Mrs. John Skinner (Treasurer). Members Not Present: Mrs. L. G. Gray, Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, Mrs. John Cummings, Mrs. J. D. Corl, Miss Martha Helm, Mrs. W. L. Davis, Mrs. W. H. Robertson, Mrs. F. H. Danglede, Mrs. J. W. Whipple.

women has been to contribute \$75 (recently \$50) annually to the Presbyterian Orphanage at Farmington, Missouri, and to send every year to the orphanage two or more barrels of jellies and preserves.

In the minutes of the Session, May 5, 1937, there appears an entry stating that the Clerk of the Session was instructed to write a note of appreciation to the Women's Bible Class in view of their "class showing an attendance of 16 per cent of the Sunday School, and 35 per cent of the contributions to the entire Sunday School funds". The entry is indicative of the work of the Women's Class.

The commendable work of this class has been due not only to the inspiration of its teacher for a long period, Mrs. Margaret Hilton, but to the fine personnel of the class and to its very efficient officers for a long time, some of whom are still serving. Of these officers, Mrs. W. C. Ball as president of the class, Mrs. B. A. Dumbauld, secretary, Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews, treasurer, have been remarkable for their long period and quality of service. Mrs. W. C. Ball, a thoroughly earnest, consecrated, and consistent Christian, who has been class president since about 1920, is a splendid leader, having tact, a fine sense of justice, a generosity of spirit, a devotion to service, and a lovable personality—all of which have endeared her to every member of the class. Mrs. B. A. Dumbauld, faithful class secretary for nearly twenty years, has demonstrated by her complete and accurate records what an excellent and conscientious secretary can do to advance the work of a class in the Sunday School. Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews has exemplified the paradoxical statement that "one may eat his cake and still have it"; for although every contribution, obligation, or donation of the class was scrupulously paid, there was always money in the class treasury. When Mrs. Matthews moved to Texas in 1939, after many years of exceptional service, Mrs. John A. Skinner took up her work as treasurer of the class and is carrying on in an admirable manner the work of Mrs. Matthews, who set a high standard of excellence for time to come. Before Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. A. V. McCorkle had been treasurer, and accomplished this service just as efficiently as she always has done every duty or task assigned to her. The class has had a number of fine vice presidents: Mrs. O. B. Landrum, Mrs. B. C. Aylor, Mrs. J. F. Gudgen, Mrs. C. E. Hall, and Mrs. J. G. Hilton. Mrs. W. C. Wood has made a record of perfect Sunday School attendance for nine years, and has been the faithful assistant secretary. Other capable officers who have loyally performed duties in the class are Mrs. O. B. Landrum, secretary of Literature for the Shut-ins, Mrs. Louise Coyne, treasurer of the Birthday Fund, Miss Martha Helm, corresponding secretary, Miss Margaret Helm and Mrs. Eva Edwards, telephone committee. Miss Callie Purkhiser won the prize, a beautiful Bible, offered in 1935 by Dr. Hilton to anyone in the Sunday School who would first commit to memory about

twenty chapters of the Bible, among these being the Fifty-third and Fifty-fifth Chapters of Isaiah, and the Fifteenth Chapter of First Corinthians. Mrs. C. C. Harris also committed these chapters.

One long-time member of this class, who in earlier years served efficiently as president and secretary of the class, and who also held office of president and treasurer of the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies is Mrs. L. G. Gray. Mrs. George Nealy has the best record of attendance for the longest time. Miss Caroline Hacker does double duty in the Sunday School: she is pianist for the Men's Bible Class, and then attends the Women's Class. For the past eight years Dr. Hilton has been the assistant teacher of the class; and the class has greatly benefited by his fine knowledge of the Bible; by his scholarship and wisdom attained through years of study, prayer, and service; and by his spiritual inspiration.

Another adult class that has also been "tops" in achievement, is the noted Kate Cameron Pratt Bible Class, of which Mrs. E. J. Pratt was the inspiring teacher during Dr. Boving's, Dr. Shepherd's and Dr. Hilton's pastorates. Of her exemplary life and fruitful service, the Thirty-first Chapter of Proverbs is an epitome, and her Sunday School students "rise up and call her blessed". Mrs. Pratt served with distinction in other departments of the church. She was president, secretary, and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society at various times; and also served in offices of the Ladies' Aid Society. She was treasurer of the Carthage Presbyterial for several years. When Mrs. Pratt died, September 17, 1941, the entire church had a sense of bereavement.

When approaching blindness necessitated Mrs. Pratt's giving up her class work, another teacher of high aspirations and laudable achievements—a devoutly earnest and consecrated Christian, and a very original, talented, and resourceful woman, Mrs. Beverley Bunce, took Mrs. Pratt's place. At the present time, Mrs. Bunce having resigned as teacher to occupy a larger sphere as Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. B. C. Aylor, vice president of the Women's Bible Class, a very excellent teacher and a lovable and charming personality, whose whole life has been devoted to the church, became teacher of this important class. The members of the Kate Cameron Pratt Class have given liberally both of time and of service to every phase of church work as well as to civic projects; e. g., Hollister Youth Program, Sunday School Hymnals, Church Annex Fund, Easter Sunrise Service, Red Cross, W. C. T. U., Community Chest, U. S. O. Fund. In the First World War period this class knitted, sewed, made bandages, and gave to relief funds; and today in the Second World War period, this fine class is busy in Red Cross, War Relief, and other activities. Since the officers of the class change often, it is impossible to give the names of these excellent women who have served the class. From the Kate Cameron



Mrs. Kate Cameron
Pratt



KATE CAMERON PRATT CLASS

Top Row: Mrs. Edgar Nealy, Mrs. Tom Moseley, Mrs. Georgia May Wilson, Mrs. J. E. Switzer, Mrs. Carroll Berrian, Mrs. Olive Gilmer, Mrs. Leroy VanHoose, Mrs. W. C. Myers, Mrs. Ralph Strain, Mrs. Ben C. Aylor (Teacher), Mrs. Harry Bellairs, Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser.

Middle Row: Miss Fern Lewis, Mrs. Ralph Brown, Miss Bess Buckbridge, Mrs. R. C. Baker.

Front Row: Miss Bernita Lewis, Mrs. Clara Gillen, Mrs. L. V. Galbraith, Mrs. O. H. Crocker.

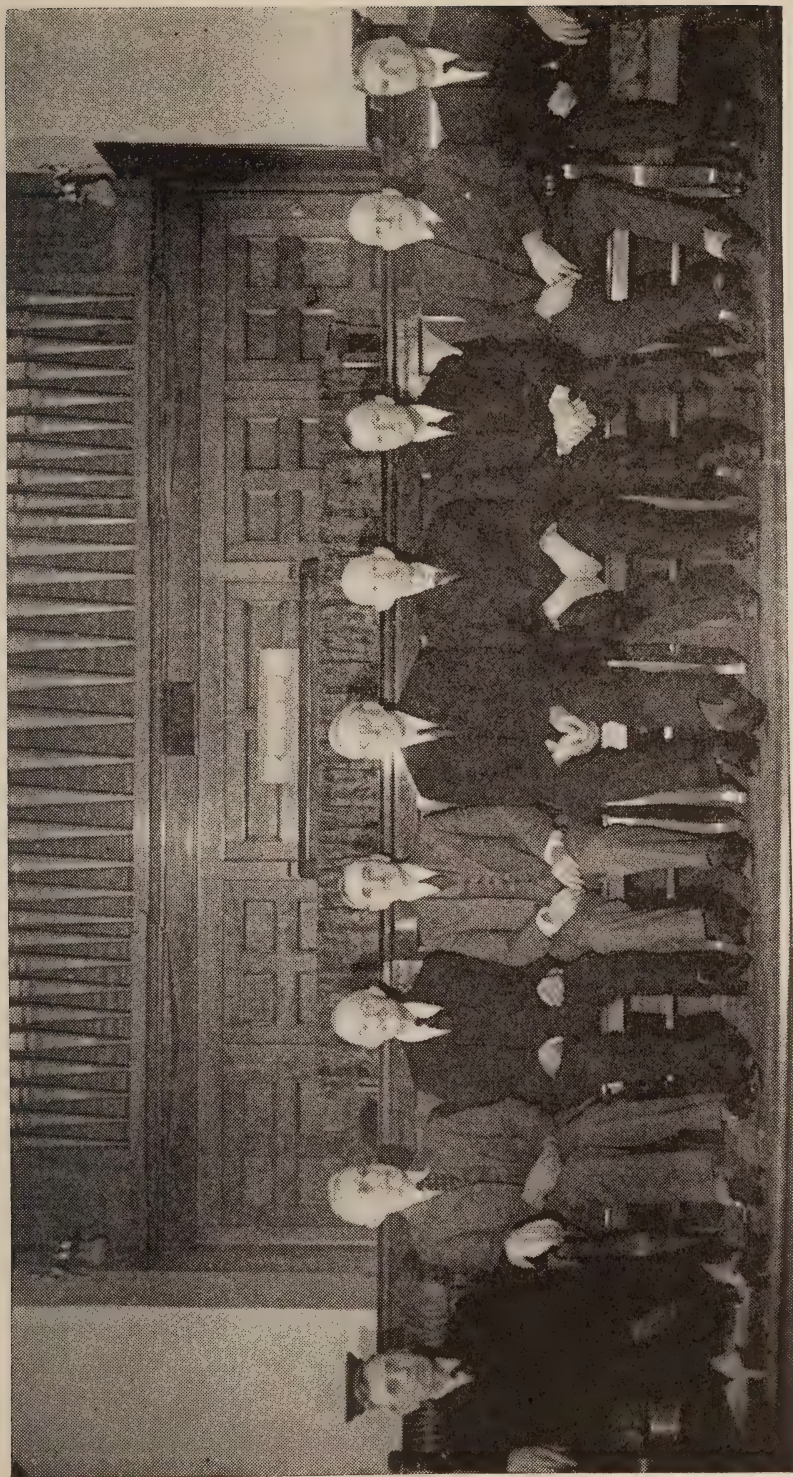
Pratt Class and the Women's Bible Class most of the Sunday School teachers have been recruited.

Of the younger classes there have been also capable and devoted teachers. However, because the personnel of the classes and the teachers necessarily changes, it is impossible to name all the teachers. Among the teachers of the young men's and boys' classes who served the longest in Dr. Hilton's pastorate, can be mentioned F. E. Hitner, W. B. Shackelford, Walter Martin, Ben D. Reynolds, Harry B. Hulett, O. B. Landrum, Paul C. Rawson, and William Waggoner.

In the vestibule of the church is a tablet showing that in an Attendance Contest of the younger classes in 1937, Mr. Hicks' Class won the first place; Harry B. Hulett's Class, the Pioneers, second; Miss Carolyn Starkweather's Class, third place.

Mrs. J. R. Kuhn was the musical director of the Sunday School nearly all of Dr. Hilton's period, and fulfilled that responsibility just as capably and earnestly as she has many other duties. Opal Flowers was assistant to Mrs. Kuhn for awhile; Robert Landrum served as song leader for three years; later, Charles Bunce helped to direct the singing. Mrs. Jack Ball has given much time to special music for the Sunday School; and for the last eight years of Dr. Hilton's pastorate, Mrs. Jack Ball and Mrs. Robert Toutz trained plays, pageants, choruses and other programs for Children's Day, Christmas, and Easter. In recent years Mrs. Royle Moseley has worked with Mrs. Jack Ball in directing Christmas and Easter programs. Some of the Sunday School pianists in Dr. Hilton's time, were Misses Mary Coyne, Dorothy Roney, Lorraine Lively, Dorothy Harris, Mary Louise McCorkle, Martha Reynolds, Genevieve Lott, Helen Shaw, and Mrs. Jack Ball. Violinists—J. D. Baldridge, Jr., Raymond Kuhn, Betty and Margaret Aylor, Charles Galbraith; cornetists—Chester Roney, Alfred Hulett, Henry Hulett—have added to the musical programs of the Sunday School. Robert Toutz had a fine Sunday School orchestra for several years in the 1920's, and was given an expression of appreciation by the Session. Raymond Kuhn and Chester Roney also directed good orchestras for awhile after Mr. Toutz had given up the work. A boys' quartette in Dr. Hilton's period was noted in the district for performances—Chester Roney, George Ball, Murray Danglade, and Gordon Lott. Misses Elizabeth Ball, Opal Flowers, Lorraine Lively, Zula and Musa Baldridge, and Lois Roney were some of the youthful soloists for the Sunday School and church in the 1920's and early 1930's. Miss Maudie Carnes has been one of the youthful soloists for church services in the last few years.

The Session, as governing body having spiritual oversight of all the church members, has always cooperated loyally with the ministers, for furtherance of God's cause in the church. Dr. Hilton has said that the members of the Session have been a tower of strength and a light for guidance through all his pastorate. Faithful Christians, they have grown in their re-



THE SESSION, 1932

O. B. Landrum, Harry B. Hulett, J. D. Baldridge, Sr., W. W. Wampler, Dr. John G. Hilton, E. W. McFarland,
Walter L. Martin, B. D. Reynolds, C. C. Harris.

sponsible positions. The elders serving a long time in Dr. Hilton's pastorate were E. W. McFarland, C. M. Manker, T. J. Roney, Fred Davidson, D. A. Graham, H. O. Hopp, I. J. Ady, H. C. Humphreys, F. E. Hitner, L. G. Gray, A. G. Young, J. B. Arbuthnot, Warren B. Shackelford, Rufus C. Butts, J. D. Baldridge, Sr., Harry B. Hulett, O. B. Landrum, Ben D. Reynolds, Dr. R. M. Stormont, Walter L. Martin, L. R. Reynolds, C. C. Harris, C. E. Hall, A. L. Hosman, and E. C. Giles.

The trustees of the church have been the guardians of the church property. Since their duties were limited in 1912 to the holding of the title to the church property, there was not so much demand for their action as there had been in the past when they had control of the church finances; and especially after the original church debt had been paid off in 1916. Nevertheless, any building program which naturally affected the title to the church property would call for their action; therefore in the latter part of Dr. Hilton's pastorate and during the vacancy of the pulpit, when the Annex was built, their expert services were required. Even though as a group they could not function often, yet as individuals their advice, suggestions, and assistance were of great help in the care of the church property and the planning of church finances, for the trustees have been men of keen business perception and sagacity. J. M. Hirons has served the longest as trustee, continuously from 1910 to the present time. Other trustees serving long periods were E. J. Pratt, W. W. Wampler, A. G. Young, O. C. Zaumseil, C. E. Matthews, B. C. Aylor. In the latter part of Dr. Hilton's period, W. C. Ball, Earl Van Hoose, and O. N. Wampler became trustees.

The ministry of music is of inestimable value in adding inspiration and beauty to the church service. The present Sanctuary Choir started in the Rev. C. B. Boving's pastorate: first, Dr. C. W. Jocelyn directed the choir, then Harry B. Hulett was the efficient director of the choir from about 1903 to 1913. Not long afterwards, Mrs. J. M. Hirons was asked by the Session to take full responsibility of the choir—a responsibility she has faithfully and capably assumed ever since. Mrs. Hirons, possessed of a beautiful voice and having a fine knowledge of technique, has for nearly forty years devoted her talent to God's service; and the Webb City Presbyterian Choir has been noted in the district for its music. At Christmas, at Easter, and on other special days, whole programs of sacred



Mrs. J. M. Hirons

Director of Music, since 1913

cantatas, lovely anthems, and solos have been rendered. Two especially beautiful cantatas presented by the choir to crowded and appreciative audiences were an Easter Cantata, "Death and Life" by Harry Rowe Shelley, in 1931; and a Christmas Cantata, "Adoration", by Nevin, in 1940. Mrs. Hiron's has also taken an active part in almost every other phase of church work—women's organizations, church committees, financial campaigns, and church programs—conscientiously giving her talents and time to practically every project and program of church activity.

The choir has had several talented singers who have been members a long time, some of them having sung in the choir for over thirty-five years: Mrs. T. J. Roney, soprano; E. E. Wood, bass; Mrs. E. W. McFarland, Mrs. C. C. Harris, and Mrs. J. D. Baldrige, Sr., altos; Mrs. Madge Gaston Hilton, soprano; J. D. Baldrige, Sr., tenor. Others with long records have been Mrs. Earl VanHoose, soprano; Mrs. W. A. Stoller and Mrs. Mary Bellairs Newell, altos. L. R. Reynolds, baritone, was a member of the choir in Dr. Speer's and Dr. Hilton's pastorates much of the time up to 1930, when he was lettered to the Joplin First Presbyterian Church. In the choir for a somewhat extended period have been O. K. Phillips, Robert Landrum, Charles Davisson, Charles Bunce, E. A. Gates, and Leo Cooper, tenors; A. L. Hosman, Randolph Gibson, basses. Also Dan Hayes, Bob Hayes, and E. C. Giles have sung in the choir in recent years. Private Hugh Moody of Camp Crowder was a tenor soloist in our choir for a while. The present members of the choir will be given in the Church Directory.

One member of the choir who has achieved national recognition as a tenor soloist, and of whom the choir and church have been justly proud, is Robert Landrum, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Landrum. Articles in the *Webb City Sentinel* and the *Joplin Globe* dated August 1, 1935, told of a recital of beautiful sacred and classical songs to be given at the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, under the auspices of the church choir on Sunday, August 4, by Robert Landrum, a distinguished young tenor soloist at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. These articles stated that young Landrum's musical career started at the Webb City High School when Mrs. J. R. Kuhn was music supervisor; that he, after his graduation in 1928, took a leading part in all the musical activities of Missouri Valley College; and that in 1933 Robert Landrum went to New York City, where he almost immediately achieved recognition in operatic performances and symphonies over N. B. C. and other networks. The newspapers later related that a crowded house greeted the young singer, who delighted the great audience with his solos and his duets with Mrs. J. M. Hiron's. As assistant superintendent and song leader of the Sunday School, as tenor soloist of the church choir for about four years, Robert Landrum manifested his deep feeling for the church in which he was nurtured. Whenever he has returned for visits here, he has

sung in the choir and assisted in the Sunday School music.

On June 20, 1940, Robert Landrum and Mrs. Helen Hare Wright, a well known contralto soloist (a grand daughter of Mrs. Jessie Hare, one of the early workers in our church), gave a most enjoyable benefit program at the Presbyterian Church for the Woman's Missionary Society fund; and the church was filled to capacity by friends and admirers of the two artist singers, from all over the district.

Naturally, the organist has a very important part in the ministry of music in accompaniments, and in playing preludes, offertories, and postludes. Mrs. W. C. Ball has given her talented service as organist for the choir and congregation since 1915, in addition to all her other valuable work in the Ladies' Aid Society, the Missionary Society, and the Women's Bible Class. Before 1915, Mrs. Latta McCroskey had been organist—and a very excellent one—most of the time from the years 1905 to 1911. The minutes of the Session show that in some of the years before Mrs. Ball became organist, various organists were hired for \$30 a month, and that in some years over \$250 was paid for an organist's services. Thus one can see what generous and excellent service Mrs. Ball and her highly gifted and very faithful assistants—Mrs. Dorothy Roney Strahorn, Mrs. William Wallace, and Miss Rozetta Guden—have rendered.



Mrs. W. C. Ball
Organist, since 1915

A Junior Choir under Mrs. Jack Ball, who also is an accomplished pianist and soprano soloist, sang at evening services a few years. However, since young people after leaving high school generally go away to college, it is difficult to keep the same junior choir any length of time. The members of the Evening Choir in 1936 were as follows: Betty Lou Van Hoose, Betty Slaughter, Dorothy Julian, Betty Aylor, sopranos; Helen Nance, Helen Mammen, Evelyn Hall, Mary Ellen Wampler, Katherine Stormont, altos.

The Christian Endeavor Societies have flourished through the years, but there has naturally been such a change in personnel that one cannot give names of all who have contributed to this very important part of church work, which develops our young people for church work and trains them to the idea of missionary service and contributions. In Dr. Hilton's pastorate, besides the work of the pastor as counselor, the major part of the work was done by Mrs. Margaret Hilton. Other excellent

workers were Miss Myra Ferris, Mrs. Madge Gaston Hilton, Miss Lois Roney, Mrs. B. P. Ramey, Otto Hayward, Mrs. Wesley Burrows, Mrs. Lewis Burris, O. K. Phillips, and B. P. Ramey. Mrs. Margaret Hilton reported in 1915 that these young people gave over \$50 to Home and Foreign Missions. In 1920, the C. E. Society's total collections amounted to \$131.91, of which \$117.70 was distributed to mission boards.

One important change was made in the financial operation of the Young People's work, beginning April 1, 1938—The Youth Budget Plan. The Endeavor Societies under B. P. Ramey had decided to try out the Youth Budget Plan as set forth by the General Council of the Presbyterian Church—a program of education which would result in developing Christian character and leadership and in preparing youth to take full responsibility as members of the church. Charles Bunce, representing the Young People's Societies, appeared before the Session to explain the Youth Budget Plan, September 8, 1937. H. B. Hulett and L. V. Galbraith of the Session were named the committee with B. P. Ramey and Charles Bunce to study this proposed new plan. This committee met with the Rev. E. E. Mace of Carthage and recommended in November that this plan be adopted for next year, beginning in April, 1938.

The Sample Youth Budget for the Societies of Webb City Presbyterian Church was this:

THE BENEVOLENCE DOLLAR

To National Missions	42 cents
To Foreign Missions	33 cents
To Christian Education	18 cents
To Pensions	5 cents
To American Bible Society.....	1 cent
To Federal Council	1 cent

THE CURRENT EXPENSE DOLLAR

To Preaching the Word.....	15 cents
To the Upkeep of God's House.....	15 cents
To Educational Work, S. S. and Other Expenses.....	30 cents
To Expense of Delegates to Y. P. Conference.....	30 cents
To Denominational and Other Y. P. Contacts.....	10 cents

On March 2, 1938, a Youth Budget Plan committee was named to work with the young people: Dr. J. G. Hilton, L. V. Galbraith, H. B. Hulett, B. P. Ramey, Misses Myra Ferris and Mary Louise McCorkle, Charles Bunce, and Jay Fussell. Dr. Hilton became the counselor, Miss Myra Ferris, treasurer, and B. P. Ramey, the director of the plan of organization. The plan proved to be so successful that it is continuing to the present day. Miss Myra Ferris is the present director of the Youth Budget Plan, following Mrs. Eli Switzer.

The Woman's Missionary Society has been outstanding in the Presbyterian because of missionary work and benevolent contributions. This society has educated the church members and young people in missionary work; and was partly respon-

sible for the great interest shown in, and the generous contributions given toward the supporting of a pastor in foreign fields in Dr. Speer's pastorate, and later in contributions to the various church boards.

The recent book of Minutes of the Missionary Society, beautifully kept by Mrs. D. L. Fussell and Mrs. C. C. Harris, show the spiritually inspiring and illuminating programs given by this society—Devotionals, pageants, plays, book reviews, articles from Missionary magazines. Particularly has the society featured book reviews, given by highly competent reviewers and critics, among whom have been Mrs. H. G. Gaston, Mrs. Charles Davisson, the late Mrs. W. W. Waggoner, Mrs. W. C. Ball, Mrs. O. B. Landrum, Mrs. Beverley Bunce, Mrs. D. L. Fussell, Mrs. L. V. Galbraith, Mrs. B. C. Aylor, Mrs. W. C. Myers, Mrs. Paul Rawson, Mrs. Hugh Wilhite, and Mrs. Wesley Burrows. The World Day of Prayer has been observed for several years with the other churches; the Presbyterian Church was the first to start this Union meeting of women of all the Protestant churches, and Mrs. O. B. Landrum was the first leader. The Annual Praise Service at Thanksgiving time, when the women contribute a dollar which they have earned to the Missionary cause, has been a beautiful and inspiring service. Rainbow and other unique luncheons and suppers have been educational and social as well as financial successes. This society started and has had charge of the Wednesday night "covered-dish" dinners for several years; and in this way the men and young people of the church have been able to participate in the study of Missions.

Many capable presidents and other officers have served in this society. One very important officer who has held her position for many years has been Miss Callie Purkhiser, director of the National and Overseas Hospital work. The Missionary Society has cooperated also with the Red Cross under Mrs. J. D. Corl. Most of the time this small society has contributed \$100 quarterly to Missionary work. In the Carthage Presbyterial (a group of women of the church corresponding to the Presbytery), Webb City members have had important positions in Dr. Hilton's pastorate: Mrs. C. M. Manker was president of the Presbyterial; the late Mrs. E. J. Pratt was treasurer for fifteen years.

The Ladies' Aid Society lived up to its name and reputation in Dr. Hilton's pastorate as in the past, under Mrs. W. D. Richardson, Mrs. A. L. Hosman, and Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, as presidents. It would take pages to describe all that these faithful women accomplished in the twenty-five years of Dr. Hilton's pastorate. A few of the things they have done will give an idea of their work. They paid \$200 on the church debt in 1915; gave \$75 on the Sunday School piano, \$50 on the pipe organ; \$75 on the Sunday School room partitions; contributed \$50 to the Red Cross War Fund. They finished the basement and the interior of the manse; paid many times for repairs on the church and on the manse; re-roofed the manse; purchased at least twice silver and

dishes to serve 200 people; redecorated the church Sanctuary several times; paid a substantial sum on the new furnace; helped in the last few years to make up the deficit in the pastor's salary and other congregational expenses; paid the greater part of the custodian's salary, purchased the furnishings and equipment of the Carterville church and distributed them in the Sunday School rooms and Annex; bought numbers of other things and equipment for the church. In addition to this and many other accomplishments, the Aid Society has directed the social life of the church: provided for Congregational dinners, church receptions, entertainments, and parties.

The culmination of all the remarkable work of these faithful women through the years was the erection of the Annex. Even in Dr. Shepherd's pastorate the sense of a need of more rooms for the Sunday School and better kitchen and dining room facilities was expressed. The Session book shows that the question of an addition to the church was brought up in Dr. Shepherd's and Dr. Speer's pastorates, and in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924. On April 7, 1926, Elders T. J. Roney and L. R. Reynolds were named a committee to consult with an architect, to provide a sketch and estimate the cost of a temporary building on the lot north of the church. The plan for a temporary building was finally discarded. Later, Elders W. L. Martin and B. D. Reynolds were added to the building committee to enlist two ladies and work out a tentative building program for a definite enlargement of the church. Plans and costs for the addition were worked out with an architect. Walter Martin and A. K. Mills then were named the committee for solicitation of the estimated funds. The church members responded generously, and the sum of several thousand dollars was pledged. However, the sufficient amount was not raised; and the circumspect committee decided, January 3, 1928, that the time was inopportune to involve the church in a debt—perhaps a wise decision, since the depression of 1932 was already beginning to affect business.

However, Dr. Hilton had not given up the idea of an addition for the Sunday School rooms. When Mrs. J. R. Kuhn became president of the Ladies' Aid Society in 1936, Dr. Hilton suggested to her that the Aid Society take charge of building an annex. The society had had a building fund for years, which, under the careful supervision and investment of Mrs. W. S. Chinn as treasurer, and later of Mrs. T. C. Hayden (treasurer from 1920 to 1942), had kept increasing.

When Mrs. W. S. Chinn passed away in 1924, she left \$500 with her son, C. R. Chinn, to be given to the Building Fund of the Aid Society. Heartened by the knowledge of this gift and inspired by Dr. Hilton's wish, Mrs. Kuhn started to work on the Annex idea. It was due primarily to the splendid genius, perseverance, and leadership of Mrs. J. R. Kuhn that the lovely, spacious Annex was finally built. However, she had wonderful support from the Aid Society, from the Session, from

the church members and the young people, and from Dr. Hilton.

On March 31, 1937, Mrs. Kuhn, with Mrs. T. C. Hayden, Mrs. J. A. Skinner, and Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews, appeared before the Session to ask their permission and cooperation to raise money, to plan the building, to execute and carry out the contract. The Session readily granted this request and appointed Elders T. J. Roney, Harry B. Hulett, and L. V. Galbraith, as a committee to work with the ladies.

The following committee of the Ladies' Aid Society worked with Mrs. Kuhn in soliciting money and planning the building: Mesdames C. M. Manker, T. C. Hayden, J. A. Skinner, Nelle C. Matthews, O. B. Landrum, Harry B. Hulett, L. L. Ashcraft, W. C. Myers, J. M. Hirons, and W. C. Ball.

The women of the Aid Society worked like Trojans to get subscriptions; they gave dinners, luncheons, banquets, entertainments, and bazaars; hemmed and sold many dozens of tea towels donated by W. C. Ball; sold many other articles given them or purchased to sell. Among the interesting programs given to raise money for building and equipping the Annex, was that sponsored by Mrs. R. M. Stormont, Mrs. W. C. Ball, Mrs. A. V. McCorkle, and Mrs. J. R. Kuhn at the home of Mrs. R. M. Stormont, February 22, 1939—a "Washington Tea". It was a very lovely affair, and featured a book review by Mrs. Graham Starr Jones.

Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Skinner, and Mrs. C. M. Manker appeared before the Session, April 7, 1938, and reported progress of the building committee. The Session was unanimously in favor of carrying out the plan, if sufficient funds could be raised. Architect C. B. Manning had met with the building committee and had worked out blue prints, specifications, and costs.

Dr. Hilton called a Congregational meeting August 24, 1938, to consider the progress of the building campaign and to take action on completing it. Dr. Hilton asked Mrs. C. M. Manker about the status of the proposed building. Mrs. Manker explained that the cost approximated \$11,000 and that the building committee had raised \$6,000 and expected to raise \$1,400 more, bringing the total to \$7,400. She further stated that it was not deemed advisable by the committee to undertake any building without the cash on hand to pay for it; that the congregation could reject the building idea entirely or borrow the remaining \$3,600 from the Church Erection Board for ten years without interest; however, she declared the application for the loan should be signed by August 31.

In answer to the question by Dr. Hilton as to the amount for the Building Fund raised by the Ladies' Aid Society the past year, Mrs. J. R. Kuhn said that the society had raised \$1,500, and could take care of the \$180 required semi-annually to repay the loan.

A motion of Ben D. Reynolds, seconded by A. V. McCorkle,



Mrs. J. R. Kuhn

Promoter of the Annex.
President of Ladies'
Aid Society,
1936-1941.



Mrs. C. M. Manker

Supt. of Sunday School
Primary Department
since 1895.
Former President of
Carthage Presbyterial.



Mrs. John A. Skinner

President Ladies' Aid
Society, 1941-1942,
when Annex debt
was paid.



Mrs. T. J. Roney

Member of the Church
Choir for forty
years.



Mrs. William Wallace

Assistant Organist,
since 1932.



Miss Rozetta Gudgeon

Assistant Organist,
since 1936.

that the building committee be authorized to proceed with the work, was passed without a dissenting vote by the congregation. Mr. Reynolds then moved that the Board of Trustees be authorized to sign the application and execute the required mortgage and collateral note according to the rules governing loans to churches. This motion was carried unanimously. Upon motion of Mr. McCorkle, Elder T. J. Roney was unanimously elected to act as attorney for the committee and provide the certificate of attorney-at-law. Upon motion of Mr. Reynolds, the trustees and elders were authorized to sign all papers and do everything necessary to carry the project to a conclusion.

At a Congregational meeting, January 12, 1939, Mrs. C. M. Manker reported that the Church Board Committee on Church Loans had met in New York City, December 16, 1938, and had approved the application of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, for a loan of \$3,600, subject to interest rate at three per cent. The congregation voted to accept the loan and pay the interest.

On March 18, 1939, the Board of Trustees—those present being O. C. Zaumseil, W. C. Ball, Earl Van Hoose, B. C. Aylor, A. V. McCorkle, J. M. Hirons—met and elected W. C. Ball as president, and J. M. Hirons as secretary. The object of the meeting was to authorize the president and secretary to execute a note and a deed of trust on church property located on lots 159-160 Byers and Ball's Addition to Webb City, Missouri, in the amount of \$3,600 bearing interest at the rate of three per cent per annum as authorized at the Congregational meetings, August 24, 1938, and January 12, 1939.

Clerk O. B. Landrum wrote to the Rev. L. J. Kovar at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, on March 16, 1939: "They are making wonderful progress with the new addition. The frame is up, the roof is on, and the contractor thinks he will be finished by the first of May." The Annex was finished and ready for use early in May, 1939. It was formally opened on the evening of May 16, 1939, with a sumptuous chicken dinner, served on dozens of small luncheon tables, each beautifully decorated with linens, silver service, and flowers. Dinner was served to over three hundred people by Mrs. J. R. Kuhn and her excellent committee of women of the Aid Society. The new kitchen was a joy to the heart of the ladies serving the dinner; and the whole Annex the pride of all the church members.

The total cost of the Annex was nearly thirteen thousand dollars, of which \$10,862.16 was paid for the building; \$320.80 for the architect's fees; lights, \$100; furnishings and equipment \$657.81; chairs \$100, and other items \$250.

Some other interesting things that happened in the latter part of Dr. Hilton's pastorate have been taken from the minutes of the Session and from the church bulletins.

In April, 1912, in Dr. Speer's pastorate, the Board of Deacons, whose duties had been to take charge of the membership

canvass, to visit the sick and needy, to prepare the Communion Table, and to have charge of ushering, was abolished "in the matter of consolidating all the boards of the church" for more unified service; and three of the deacons—T. J. Roney, W. P. Purkhiser, and R. S. Nichols—were elected elders. In 1930 the Board of Deacons was again established—Eugene Hudson, Sam Landrum, Sr., Oliver Wampler, and Ralph Rodkey being elected deacons; in 1931, Lester V. Galbraith replaced Eugene Hudson, who had left Webb City. Then in 1933, the Board of Deacons was abolished again in the interest of unified responsibility. Ralph Rodkey and L. V. Galbraith were made members of the Session; Oliver Wampler was elected to the Board of Trustees, Sam Landrum, Sr., having declined to accept office.

The annual Sunday School picnic, which had been held at Lakeside Park, about three miles from Webb City, for many years, was discontinued in 1933. This Sunday School picnic had always been a great social event; and while the Southwest Missouri Company furnished the transportation and kept up the park, Lakeside, with its river and its beautiful natural scenery of woods and rolling hills, was an ideal spot for picnicking. Swimming, tennis, ball games, and other sports delighted the younger folks and those who always retain their youth. One reason why the Sunday School picnic was given up was that it had become almost too unwieldy to handle as a whole. The writer of this history has a very definite memory of the time when she was chairman of the menu committee. Having been told to prepare for 350 persons, the committee prepared for 400, and over 425 attended. The menu committee's share of the supper was a cup of coffee and a dish of ice cream apiece. Even at that it was a "heap of fun." As one thinks of these picnics, "mountains" of baked hams or fried chicken, "continents" of baked beans, pickles, and potato salad, "oceans" of cakes and ice cream, float before one's eyes; into the picture also comes a vision of Mr. J. E. Potts with his never-emptied coffee pot, in those good old days when one was not limited to one cup of coffee. So there has been also regret for the necessary discontinuing of a very enjoyable activity. Individual class or department picnics have been held until this year of 1942, when the Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Beverley Bunce, revived the idea of a Sunday School picnic at the Webb City attractive city park near Hatten Farms golf links. At this time each class separately took care of its menu with ice cream furnished by the Sunday School; all who went took part in the general entertainment of songs and stunts, and reported an enjoyable time.

Some other social occasions are a delight to remember. Since Dr. Hilton's birthday is on Hallowe'en, the Ladies' Aid Society often planned parties in his honor at some of the larger homes—of Mrs. C. E. Matthews, Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. J. M. Hirons, or Mrs. T. F. Coyne. At one of these unforgettable birthday parties, planned by Mrs. J. R. Kuhn and the Aid Society and

held at the home of Mrs. C. M. Manker in 1937, a huge birthday cake with candles 'n everything was the "piece de resistance" of the refreshments, while the climax of entertainment of "mixers" and contests was the exhibition of interesting moving pictures in color, which had been taken by Dr. Raymond Kuhn. Some of the pictures were of the congregation coming out of church on Sunday; others were taken of guests coming into the dining room for delectable refreshments at a very enjoyable Congregational party held on April 16, 1937, at the home of Mrs. C. E. Matthews, when over 150 members were present to enjoy Mrs. Matthews' hospitality and an entertaining program of music, contests, and games—arranged by Mrs. J. R. Kuhn and Mrs. Jack Ball.

The Session and congregation sent a letter of respect and greeting in appreciation of Dr. J. H. Speer's service in this church on his attaining the retirement age of active service on his birthday, June 11, 1937. When Harry B. Hulett, Church Treasurer, was seriously ill at Freeman Hospital in October, 1936, the Session and members sent cards and flowers. The aged C. C. Butts, Elder Emeritus, requested in December, 1935, that the Session and church members remember him in their prayers; and he was assured in a letter that his request was earnestly carried out. When this dear old man passed away—September, 1937—the Session requested T. J. Roney to draw up resolutions of respect to his family.

In 1935, the Session tried a plan of having a separate treasurer for Benevolences. Although Robert Hitner, as Benevolence Treasurer, was exceedingly accurate and capable, the plan was not successful; and the Benevolence funds were placed again in the hands of the Church Treasurer, April 1, 1937. An office of superintendent of Sunday School literature was created in 1937, and Mrs. C. M. Manker was asked by the Session to fill this office.

W. W. Wampler, who first became a member of the Session in 1894, and served until 1897 and was an elder continuously from 1912 to 1933, and who also held many other responsible positions in the church, retired in 1933. The Session issued in the *Bulletin*, a tribute, dated May 4, 1933, a part of which is quoted here:

"While we regret that the occasion demands, it is a distinct pleasure to offer you this expression of our appreciation of your faithful and efficient service you have rendered the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City as a member of the Session. Twenty-four years may be considered an exceptional term as an elder in one church. We shall continue to number you among the faithful upon whom we can depend in either emergency or regular activities."

Mr. Wampler passed away January 30, 1939, almost up to the last fulfilling his high mission of service. The Session passed Resolutions which were printed in the church *Bulletin*, February 5, 1939. A part of these Resolutions is as follows:

"Whereas, on Monday of this week, God in His Divine Wisdom, called to his reward our brother, Willis W. Wampler, one who for many years labored and served most faithfully the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, as an active member, as a ruling Elder, and more recently as one of the Trustees of this church.

"And, Whereas, in the death of Willis W. Wampler, we fully realize the loss sustained to our church organization, and are prepared to join with the citizens in this city, community, and district in mourning the loss by the passing of one so outstanding in the work of the upbuilding, promoting, and making of our city, community, and district a better place within which to live.

"Therefore, we the members of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, for and on behalf of the entire membership of the church, express to each and every member of the immediate family, relatives, and friends of Willis W. Wampler, our deepest sympathy in this hour of bereavement."

During Dr. Hilton's pastorate several others of the elders and trustees were called home to their Heavenly Father. Each had contributed his distinctive service to the church. The tributes of the Session, spread upon the minutes, indicate something of what each had meant to the church. These tributes can be given only in part. Resolutions of respect for Frank Hitner, who fell asleep in Jesus, January 29, 1923, written by W. W. Wampler and J. D. Baldrige:

"Whereas God in His infinite wisdom has called home Brother Frank E. Hitner, a faithful member of the Session,

"Be It Resolved, That in his death this church has lost a most useful, devoted, and faithful member. He served with zeal and fidelity, always a Christian gentleman, ever ready to see the good in others and ignore their faults and shortcomings. His life was an exemplification of the teachings of Christ.

"That the community has lost a valued citizen, one whose services were ever at the call of any movement for the betterment of the community. To know him was to love him."

Resolutions for H. C. Humphreys, who passed away in October, 1923, given by H. B. Hulett, Ben D. Reynolds, T. J. Roney:

"In Brother Humphreys' death the community has lost a valuable citizen; the church, a faithful and untiring worker; and the family, a loving husband.

"The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri, hereby acknowledge the irreparable loss to this body, in his devotion to duty, his faithful services, and his valuable counsel; it will have cause to rejoice always in the life he lived so full of noble deeds well done."

Resolutions for Lowry G. Gray, who departed this life in February, 1924, set up by O. B. Landrum and B. D. Reynolds:

"God in his infinite wisdom has called from us our good friend and brother, Lowry G. Gray, who was always a faithful worker, a consistent Christian and a true gentleman. In his death our church has lost a helpful member, and our community a most honorable and public-spirited citizen. The Session has been blessed by his constancy, his loyalty and devotion; and in our deliberations his quiet, calm, and useful consideration has always been of inestimable value to us in reaching our conclusions.

"The Session of this Church, deeply conscious of its loss, does mourn

with the entire community the death of this upright citizen and Christian gentleman."

Resolutions for Elroy J. Pratt, who passed away, July 20, 1930, drawn up by O. B. Landrum, Harry B. Hulett, and Thomas J. Roney:

"It is therefore a grateful task to measure in terms of high appraisal the life of Elroy J. Pratt. He was a leader among leaders in His service. He never questioned the sincerity of purpose of others; but once determining his objective to be just, he neither retreated nor hesitated in its attainment. He served in many positions of trust and distinction; and for many years and to the date of his death, he was the choice of the membership of the First Presbyterian Church of this city, where he was a member, as one of the Trustees of the Church. By those who came within the influence of his remarkable personality will he ever be remembered with sincerest affection and esteem. He lived a life of honor, of benevolence, and of Christian devotion; and reassured and sustained by an unflinching faith, he entered the shadow of the tomb with Christian resignation."

Resolutions for Charles C. Harris, who died on November 26, 1937, written by O. B. Landrum and R. M. Stormont:

"God in His unerring wisdom has called from our midst our brother and co-worker, C. C. Harris, a faithful and consecrated member of the Session of this church: loyal to its creeds, its doctrines, and its traditions; cheerful and willing in the execution of duties falling to his lot as a member of the church and this Session.

"As a citizen he was a sincere advocate of clean society, honest government and useful industry. He was untiring in his efforts to promote the best interests of the community. The Session is deeply conscious of its loss and mourns with the community the passing of this upright citizen and Christian gentleman."

Several members of the Board of Trustees, besides Mr. Pratt and Mr. Wampler, who had served on the Board many years, passed away in Dr. Hilton's pastorate: C. E. Matthews, February 1, 1929; A. G. Young, January 12, 1934; O. C. Zaumseil, April 24, 1939—all very faithful and upright churchmen.

The Session records show that on April 2, 1936, a resolution embodying a special vote of thanks was written by the Clerk to Mrs. A. L. Hosman, president of the Ladies' Aid Society, for the society's having had the interior of the church repaired, cleaned, and painted; and a letter of thanks was sent the Ladies' Aid Society again in December, 1936, for contributing \$100 to apply on the pastor's salary.

A vote of thanks was extended to Elder Galbraith, December 2, 1936, for his service as acting Treasurer during Mr. Hulett's illness. A committee of the Session was appointed December 5, 1935, to direct a letter to Ralph Rodkey at Dayton, Ohio, expressing appreciation of the Session for his loyal activities in the church. Letters of appreciation were written to Robert Hitner for his work as Sunday School Superintendent, and to B. P. Ramey for his service as sponsor of the Christian Endeavor Society.

The Session passed a resolution on March 31, 1937, com-

mending Circuit Judge Watson's action in conducting the Grand Jury proceedings at the February term of court at Carthage, the charge to the Grand Jury being dated February 18, 1937.

"We, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri, wish to extend to the Honorable Ray E. Watson, Circuit Judge of Jasper County, Missouri, and to each and every member of the Grand Jury recently convened at Carthage, Missouri, and all officials cooperating, our sincere thanks for their fearless work in their effort to put to an end the vice conditions heretofore existing in our county. We heartily commend their action and sincerely trust that the expected improvement be made permanent."

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church,
Webb City, Missouri.

In April, 1937, the various departments and Sunday School classes gave their annual reports at the Congregational meeting in a unique and interesting manner. Each department and class had a large poster in colors with charts, pictures, and drawings, which told of the work accomplished. Never before did one realize that the church had so many artists. Harry B. Hulett's Pioneer Class started the Parade of Reports, and the other classes and church departments fell in line.

The church *Bulletin*, September 25, 1938, calls attention to the World Wide Communion Sunday to be observed on the following Sunday, October 2. This was one of the early observances of a most beautiful service still carried on today—a service when all the Presbyterian churches of America and other countries, and all the Missionaries all over the world join in a "round-the-clock" Communion Service, held at exactly the same time. The spiritual benefit from this world fellowship in the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is uplifting and inspiring.

On November 14, 1938, the Carthage Presbytery inaugurated "Presbyterian Day"—the purpose being to instruct the elders, laymen, women, and youth about work of the Presbyterian Church in the world at large. The first meeting was held at Carthage; and Elder T. J. Roney of the Webb City church was named as the keynoter for the banquet, which was the climax of the day's services.

The First Presbyterian Church of Joplin celebrated its Sixty-fifth Anniversary, December 4 to 7, 1938. A special invitation to attend all the meetings was issued to the congregation of the Webb City Church, and several members attended the memorable and enjoyable series of meetings. Dr. William Cleveland, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a former pastor of the Joplin church, who had acted as Moderator twice during vacancies in the pulpit of our church, was the distinguished speaker on Sunday morning, December 4.

The minutes show that the Presbyterian Church has paid for one-half or one-fourth page advertisement in the high school annual, *King Jack*, for several years.

The minutes for March 2, 1938, state that the Session voted to rebuild all the sidewalks around the church at a cost of

\$102 with W. P. A. labor. Ben D. Reynolds offered to furnish and deliver the sand and gravel without cost.

Harry B. Hulett has been responsible more than any other person for a very beautiful civic project—the Easter Sunrise Service, held almost every year since 1935, on a natural hill side with a beautiful landscape setting at the Hatten Farms Golf Course. All the churches and many civic organizations such as the Municipal Band, Girls' Drum Corps, Boy Scouts, and Battery G have taken part. Mr. Hulett, who conceived the idea in 1934, and with the assistance of the ministers and other citizens of the town, worked out the plans for the first Sunrise Service on the next Easter, has had scenery painted to carry out the idea of the Resurrection background. Musicians and choir singers and members of the various churches and other organizations have sung in choruses, and acted out pageant parts—and have formed a living Cross. The permanent concrete Cross was planned, and the money raised for it by getting subscriptions and giving a benefit picture show (the films donated by Larry Larsen of the Civic Theatre) through the efforts of Mrs. E. E. Wood. The Cross was built by Ed Anthony with thirty-one volunteer workers, all of whom contributed their labor. The lighting for the Cross was donated by W. Alton Jones, a former Webb City boy, and now president of the Cities Service Company of New York City. Great crowds from all the Tri-State District have attended this lovely and impressive service. It was estimated by the Highway Patrol that 25,000 were present in 1941; and 20,000 in 1942.

When in July, 1938, Dr. Hilton had completed twenty-five years as pastor here, a grateful congregation rendered homage to him: The Webb City *Sentinel*, the Joplin *Globe*, the Joplin *News-Herald*, and the Carthage, Neosho, and Springfield papers had extensive articles on Dr. Hilton's life and work under the headings: A VETERAN PASTOR HONORED, and PASTOR OF THE WEBB CITY CHURCH FETED BY HIS CONGREGATION. These papers printed also an account of the Recognition Service. A brief summary of the newspaper articles on this Service is given:

Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, president of the Ladies' Aid Society, with a committee composed of Mrs. W. C. Ball, Mrs. Beverley Bunce, Mrs. J. M. Hiron, Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. J. A. Skinner, and Mrs. W. C. Myers, planned the beautiful service honoring Dr. Hilton.

A large group of young singers under the direction of Charles Manker Bunce substituted for the regular choir in singing the songs and anthems, with an accompaniment by Mrs. W. C. Ball at the organ and Miss Genevieve Lott at the piano.

Dr. Hilton, after preaching a brief sermon, gave reminiscences of his pastorate. He thanked the congregation and the various organizations for their kindness and loyal support. After the services Ben D. Reynolds, in behalf of the Session and the congregation, eulogized Dr. Hilton for his service to the local church and to the community, and presented Dr. Hilton with a leather bill fold containing a sum of what later amounted to \$140 for the purchase of a gift of his own choosing.

On October 5, 1938, after rounding out nearly forty years in

the Presbyterian ministry, Dr. Hilton resigned because of an illness resembling arthritis due to a football injury received in his college days.

The following is the letter of resignation:

Webb City, Missouri, October 5, 1938.

To the Session of the Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Mo.:

I hereby present my resignation to you to take effect the first day of November, 1938. My reason is that it is difficult for me to do my work as pastor of this church, because of a knee that fails to function with the rest of my body.

I wish you to know I do this with sadness of heart at the thought of leaving this church and its fine people with whom I have labored so many years. I shall leave with the prayer that God will richly bless you as a Session and a people, and that the Spirit of God may guide you in the selection of a pastor.

Yours in His service,
John G. Hilton.

A shocked and saddened Session begged Dr. Hilton to reconsider his resignation with the idea that some one could be employed to help him. However, Dr. Hilton insisted that since he could no longer serve the church in full capacity, it was time for him to quit.

After two meetings the Session decided to call a Congregational meeting October 12, 1938, to consider Dr. Hilton's resignation. At the Congregational meeting when the people of the church finally realized that Dr. Hilton felt that, because of his physical condition, he could not continue as pastor any longer, they voted to accept his resignation. The Rev. E. W. Love of the Bethany Presbyterian Church of Joplin was named to act as Moderator for the meeting of the Presbytery. A pulpit committee was appointed: Elders T. J. Roney, B. D. Reynolds, and R. M. Stormont.

On Thursday, October 27, 1938, a *pro-re-nata* meeting of the Carthage Presbytery was held in the Webb City Presbyterian Church to dissolve the pastoral relation existing between Dr. J. G. Hilton and the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri. L. V. Galbraith was selected by the Session to represent the church and T. J. Roney, his alternate.

When Dr. Hilton preached his farewell sermon, an immense crowd paid tribute to him with eyes filled with tears. He had become associated with their dearest memories: friendship, fellowship, marriage, baptism of their children, last hours of their loved ones—hours of joy and of achievement, and hours of sorrow.

The newspapers of the Tri-State District gave long accounts on Dr. Hilton's life and his pastorate at Webb City. They also emphasized his civic work in the community as well as his church work in the state, and called him the Dean of Pastors of the district. Particularly did the newspaper articles point out Dr. Hilton's Scout work as an outstanding service to the district. Some of the positions held by Dr. Hilton were listed as follows:

He was president of the Webb City Library Board for over ten years (and is still president of the board); he was chairman of the Red Cross six years; he was an active member of the old Commercial Club and later of the Chamber of Commerce; he is a member of the Rotary Club and chairman of the Civic Service group of that club. He has been president of the Webb City Ministerial Alliance several times. Also he was chairman of the Easter Sunrise Service executive committee a number of years, following Dr. Z. M. Williams.

Dr. Hilton has been Moderator of the Kansas Synod and of the Missouri Synod (1934), and was largely active in the Carthage Presbytery. He was Executive Secretary of Missouri Synod for three years without pay; and for twenty-four years, he was Secretary of the Synod Committee for Home and National Missions. As chairman of this very important committee, he started the movement for a pastor for Presbyterian students at the University of Missouri at Columbia, and was instrumental in purchasing for the minister a residence costing \$15,000.

Dr. Hilton was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, June 11, 1918, by the Westminster College for his scholarship and exceptional work in the Presbyterian Church and Synod.

During his pastorate he received over five hundred members into the church, the red-letter day being Easter Sunday, April 5, 1931, when sixty-six were enrolled as communicants. Dr. Hilton has performed so many marriages that had an accurate account been kept, his record might rival that of any of the three pastors of the "Little Church Around the Corner."

Fortunately, the Webb City Church has not lost this kindly, noble Christian gentleman, for he still lives here and is willing to assist wherever he can. With his usual modesty and consideration of others, he keeps himself in the background. He is assistant teacher of the Women's Bible Class and substitutes in the Men's Bible Class also. He and the present pastor, the Reverend Louis J. Kovar, are warm friends.

Dr. Hilton maintains his interest in community, national, and church affairs. His days are passed in beautiful surroundings of a lovely home and flower gardens, and with his beloved books, which are among his greatest delights; and he enjoys visits of his personal friends whom he can number by the thousands. He has a genius for friendship, and is a delightful comrade of any age, as he is possessed of a rare gift of humor, a highly intellectual and well informed mind, a brilliant conversational ability, a genial, mellow disposition, a warmth of feeling, a sincere interest in, and a sympathetic understanding of, humanity—all of which have won the respect and devotion of every one who has been privileged to know him.



BOY SCOUTS—TROOP 25, 1942.

Third Row: J. D. Baldridge, Jr., the Rev. L. J. Kovar, Dr. George W. Cox, Roy Thomas, Edgar Nealy, Robert Myers, Billy Baker, Beverley Bunce, Paul Rawson, Sr.
 Second Row: Robert Stults, John Myers, Frank Baldridge, Terry James, Eugene Fahrman, Clyde Elliott, Kenton Crane, Bill Majors, Bennie Crandell, Don Tappana, Coyne Hatten.
 First Row: Gene Davis, Bennie Welcher, Frank Blair, George Baldridge, R. C. Baker (Scoutmaster), Jack Lowe, Marion Glover, Bert Hancock, Charles Serviss.



MEN'S BIBLE CLASS, 1942

Top Row: The Rev. L. J. Kovar (Pastor), Dr. John G. Hilton, Dr. Fred S. Carney, Geo. W. Lott (Teacher), J. W. Boyd, L. V. Galbraith, Sam G. Landrum, Paul Rawson, Sr. (Vice President), Dr. E. A. Belden.

Second Row: Ralph E. Brown, O. B. Landrum, J. E. Switzer, Roy B. Thomas, W. C. Myers.

Bottom Row: E. E. Wood, Miss Carrie Hacker (Pianist), E. C. Giles (President), Eli P. Switzer, Arthur Shadwell (Secretary), R. C. Baker (Song Leader).

THE REV. LOUIS J. KOVAR EMPHASIZES YOUTH
WORK—CELEBRATES THE SIXTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH.

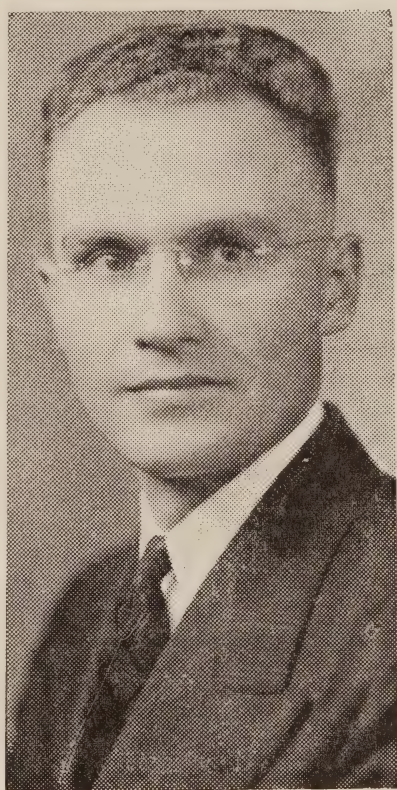
1939 - 1943*

Of study he took most care and most heed;
And what he said was clear so that you wished to hear;
And that was said in form and reverence.

—Chaucer.

The Rev. Louis J. Kovar has had a difficult place to fill, after the long pastorate of one who has become enshrined in the hearts of the people of the church and the community. Nevertheless, with the help of his charming wife, he has won a place for himself with the congregation. This earnest, spiritually-minded young man has a pleasing voice and an excellent vocabulary, and he often seems inspired in the pulpit. Mr. Kovar uses ritual in church services as a way of adding meaningful beauty, impressiveness, and reverence to worship. He is especially fond of poetry, which he quotes often in his sermons. He is a student by nature; moreover, progressive in his attitude and ideas, he is alert to changing conditions and methods of advancement in the work of the church.

Louis Joseph Kovar was born on March 30, 1907, in Rossville, Kansas, where his early boyhood was spent. He attended the public schools at Delia, Kansas. His college education was attained at the Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at Manhattan, from which he was graduated



The Rev. Louis J. Kovar

*Just as this history goes to press, word comes that Mr. Kovar has resigned to accept a call from the Presbyterian Church of Hannibal, Missouri.

with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1931. He pursued graduate work at this Kansas college in engineering research and education. Later he spent a year as director of athletics and teacher of science at Rexford, Kansas.

When Mr. Kovar decided upon the ministry as God's plan for his life, he entered the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha, and was admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Theology in 1935. In the seminary he was a member of the Student Council and president of his seminary class for two years. While attending college, he preached in several small churches: notably the Presbyterian Church at Akron, Nebraska; at Miles City, Montana; and at Utica and Thayer, Nebraska. He was cited with honor by Nebraska City Presbytery for outstanding service at the Utica and Thayer churches. The Stated Clerk of Nebraska City Presbytery referred to his work at Utica, where on one Sunday he received sixty new members into the church, as a "visit of the Holy Spirit to Utica." Taking over a disorganized church at Akron, Nebraska, he advanced its membership by forty per cent in one vacation period of four months.

Mr. Kovar was pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, for twenty-seven months before coming to Webb City. He was highly commended by the congregation of the church.

In a letter to the Session of our church, J. G. Remy, a member of the Session at Broken Arrow, declared:

"I feel confident that I speak the sentiment of this congregation, when I say that it is with a great deal of regret that we have to lose Mr. and Mrs. Kovar. We want you to know that they leave with our highest regard, goodwill, and full appreciation of their wonderful services here; and we rejoice with them in their ability to advance to a larger field of Christian service, and wish them God's blessing, which they so greatly deserve."

The articles and sermons of the Rev. L. J. Kovar have already received recognition from Presbyterian and other journals: *The Southern Presbyterian Quarterly* for July and September, 1942, *The Presbyterian*, *The Pulpit Digest*, *Preaching Today*, *Monday Morning*, and *The Rotarian*. Mr. Kovar has assumed active leadership in the Presbyterian Church conferences at Hollister, Missouri, and at Missouri Valley College, Marshall, Missouri.

Louis J. Kovar was married in 1936 at Jewell, Kansas, to Miss Doris W. Sergeant, of Juniata, Nebraska. Mrs. Kovar is a brilliant, talented, and attractive young woman, a graduate from the University of Nebraska, with a Phi Beta Kappa Key. She was a high school Latin teacher at Utica, Nebraska, before her marriage. She has both poetical and musical abilities, and has written a hymn for the Civic Club. Mrs. Kovar, with her youthful viewpoint and patient and lovable disposition, has a great influence with the young people. She is likewise a faithful and capable worker in the Sunday School and other organ-

izations of the church.

The Rev. Louis J. Kovar was finally selected unanimously as pastor from six very promising young ministers, at a Congregational meeting, February 28, 1939, the Rev. E. W. Love of Joplin Bethany Presbyterian Church acting as Moderator, and Elder T. J. Roney reporting for the Pulpit committee, of which Elders R. M. Stormont and Ben D. Reynolds were the other members. Mr. Reynolds was chosen by general consent to represent the Session, and Mrs. Ben D. Reynolds to represent the congregation, in notifying Carthage Presbytery of the election of the Rev. Louis J. Kovar as pastor of the church. The Moderator and the Clerk were authorized to sign the Pulpit Call. It was voted to send letters of appreciation to the Rev. E. W. Love and Dr. Otto C. Seymour for their assistance during the vacancy in the pulpit.

On March 16, 1939, Session Clerk O. B. Landrum sent a letter which followed his telephone call to Mr. Kovar, to notify him of the changes of salary from the original agreement (\$1,800 a year). The Pulpit committee had decided to issue a formal call to the Rev. L. J. Kovar with salary on the basis of \$2,000, with free use of the manse, a continuation of payment of the 7½ percent of \$2,300 quarterly in advance to the Board of Pensions, and a month's vacation each year.

The new pastor arrived before Easter, and his first service here was Communion Service on Friday, April 7. Carthage Presbytery, meeting at White Oak, April 12, 1939, received the Rev. Louis J. Kovar into the Presbytery and arranged for his installation at Webb City: Dr. Otto C. Seymour to deliver the Sermon; the Rev. E. W. Love, the Charge to the Congregation; the Rev. E. E. Mace, the Charge to the Pastor; Dr. John G. Hilton to preside and to propound the Constitutional Questions. On April 16, the Session set the date for the installation of Louis J. Kovar for Sunday evening, April 30, 1939; and he was installed as pastor on that date by a very impressive ceremony before a crowded house. Clerk O. B. Landrum was requested at a Session meeting, June 7, to write a letter of appreciation to each of the pastors taking part in the Installation. The Clerk's letter to Dr. John G. Hilton is given here:

Webb City, Missouri, July 3, 1939.

Dr. J. G. Hilton, Webb City, Missouri.

Dear Brother Hilton: At a recent meeting of the Session of this church, the Clerk was instructed to address a note of appreciation for your part in the installation of Rev. Louis J. Kovar as pastor of this church on April 30th, this year.

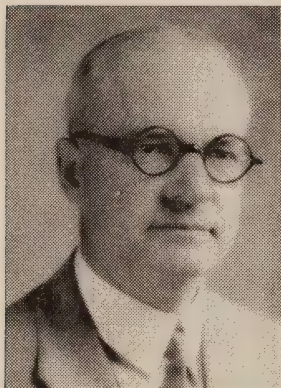
The service was beautiful and appropriate; and it is a pleasure to offer you this bit of thanks in behalf of the Session and friends of the church.

I would also add a word of personal appreciation of your many years of faithful, consistent, and successful labors, as pastor of the congregation and citizens of the community. May the Lord bless you in many more years of service in His vineyard.

Yours very cordially,
O. B. Landrum, Clerk of Session,
First Presbyterian Church.

About the time that Mr. Kovar began his pastoral duties here, the church was saddened by the death of Elder T. J. Roney, on April 16, 1939.

After he joined the church on July 2, 1905, Mr. Roney served faithfully and excellently in many capacities: as deacon; as head usher; as elder twenty-seven years; as delegate many times to the Presbytery; as teacher of the Men's Bible Class, and as attorney for the church. His last service was acting as chairman of the Pulpit committee after Dr. Hilton's resignation—a duty which he fulfilled capably, though ill. A printed resolution of the Session, dated April 19, 1939, signed by Dr. R. M. Stormont and Clerk O. B. Landrum, and spread upon the records, speaks thus of Mr. Roney:



T. J. Roney
Elder, 1912-1939

"Whereas, God, in his unerring wisdom, has called from us our good friend and brother, Thomas J. Roney, who was always a faithful and willing worker, a consistent Christian and a true gentleman, and in his death our church has lost a helpful member, and our community a most honorable and public-spirited citizen, and

"Whereas, the Session of this church has been blessed by his constancy, loyalty, and devotion; and in our deliberations, his quiet, calm, and helpful consideration of each problem has always been of inestimable value to us in reaching conclusions:

"Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Session of this church, being deeply conscious of the loss, does mourn with the entire community the death of this upright citizen and Christian gentleman.

"Be It Further Resolved, that we extend to the bereaved family our sincere sympathy and assure them we share their sorrow."

At the Congregational meeting, April 19, 1939, Ben D. Reynolds gave a very beautiful tribute to Mr. Roney, eulogizing him as a Christian gentleman. Truly Mr. Roney's life illustrated Wordsworth's "Happy Warrior."

On June 7, 1939, at the suggestion of the pastor, the Session agreed to consult Dr. John G. Hilton with the thought of requesting Carthage Presbytery to bestow upon him the title of Pastor Emeritus, in recognition of his many fruitful years as pastor of the church. Elder Ben D. Reynolds was chosen to confer with Dr. Hilton with the view of getting his approval. However, Dr. Hilton, with his characteristic modesty, did not wish to accept the position, although he was highly appreciative of the proffered honor.

In the three and one half years Mr. and Mrs. Kovar have been here, excellent work has been done with the Youth organizations of the church. The Webb City young people have not only maintained their former high standing in Carthage Pres-

bytery as leaders and workers, but have become one of the exceptional groups in the Youth of Synod of Missouri. In 1940 the Youth Group of Carthage Presbytery won the Gold Star Standard Cup, under the leadership of Charles Galbraith, of the Webb City Church, who has been president of the Young People's Society of the Carthage Presbytery the past two years. This year (1942) Missouri Synod gave Carthage Presbytery Youth the Gold Seal of Honor for being the most outstanding Youth Presbytery of Missouri. Charles Galbraith has also been chairman of the Youth Budget Commission of the Youth Synod for one year. The Rev. Louis J. Kovar was named co-chairman of the sponsors of Youth of Synod by the Synod of Missouri, which met at St. Charles in June, 1942. He will be director of Youth of Synod in 1943.

For the past three years, the drama group of the Webb City Presbyterian Youth has won first place in the Presbytery for the best presentation of sacred drama, and this year was awarded the loving cup permanently. The three casts were composed of Margaret Cox, Margaret Rawson, Alice Sue Bunce, Maxine Cripps, Helen Myers, Mary Margaret Cater, Marian Bentley, Janet Switzer, Harry Johns, Jr., Rex Garoutte, Houston Olson, and Robert Myers. Margaret Cox was named as the best actor of all groups taking part in this year's contest, which included those from Joplin First Church, Joplin Bethany Church, Carthage First Church, and from Webb City, Neosho and Monett churches. Mrs. L. V. Galbraith, Mrs. Robert D. Toutz, and Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser have directed the Webb City casts.

This year, as has been the practice for many years, the representatives of the Youth of our church attended the conference at Hollister, their expenses being paid by the church, the Women's Bible Class and other adult classes, and the young people themselves. Last year fourteen from Webb City attended the Hollister Conference—the largest group in the state. The young people who attended this year were Suzanne Haughawout, Margaret Rawson, Helen Myers, Mary Lou Nance, Alice Sue Bunce, Joan Van Hoose, Henry Hulett, Robert Myers, Harry Johns, Jr. They gave an interesting report of the beautiful, inspirational, and helpful meetings and programs of the conference at one of our Sunday morning services in August: Mrs. Wesley Burrows presided; Edward Carlstead gave the Invocation; Raymond BeVier read the Scriptures; and a quartette composed of Helen Myers, Janet Switzer, Harry Johns, Jr., and Paul Rawson, Jr., sang "Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul." At this service Helen Myers, who was the Webb City Church's representative at the meeting of Youth of Missouri Synod at St. Charles in June, reported that Carthage Presbytery was the first Youth Group in the state to reach the 130 point perfection.

The pastor and the Session of the church have always encouraged the young people to excel in school and civic affairs. At least twice in Dr. Hilton's pastorate, prizes were offered by



Officers of the Youth Group.

Standing: Alice Sue Bunce, Billy Baker, John Berrian, Robert Myers, Helen Myers, Mrs. J. W. Burrows (Sponsor).

Seated: Harry D. Johns, Janet Switzer (Secretary), Margaret Rawson (President), Bobby Ann Shadwell, Edward Carlstead (Vice President).

the Session for the best essays and orations on subjects connected with W. C. T. U. work or with Stewardship. Also, youthful orators, essayists, and Bible contest readers have often been asked to give before the Sunday School and church their essays, debates, and Bible readings. Since 1923, most of the representative debaters winning district and state honors for the Webb City High School have been from the First Presbyterian Church: Elizabeth Ball, George Ball, Murray Danglede, John Davisson, William Vaughan, Hal Wise, Jr., George Wise, Marjorie Davisson, William Myers, Geraldine Poole, Max Myers, Herbert Stogsdill, Robert Myers, and Maxine Cripps. William Myers and Geraldine Poole won the State Championship in debate in 1939. Max Myers was awarded second place in oration in the state in 1940, and Robert Myers won the County Oratorical Contest in 1942. In the Bible Reading contest of the high school in 1939, Richard Thralls gained first place. This year the Bible Reading contest was held again, and Alice Sue Bunce was given the highest ranking for the girls. Both Dr. Hilton and the Rev. L. J. Kovar have stimulated and helped the young people in their work. Dr. Hilton, when he was pastor, per-

sonally offered rewards and prizes to the young people of the church for writing essays, poems, and stories; for learning noted poems and chapters from the Bible; and for reading certain masterpieces of literature.

Jay Fussell, Valedictorian of the Class of '39 and a member of our church, is editor of the *Westminster Foundation Service* paper at the University of Missouri, a periodical for Presbyterian young people, of whom there are nearly 500 at the university this year. There are fifty-eight tax-supported and independent colleges in the United States which have this Westminster Foundation Service of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. Dr. John G. Hilton, of Webb City, is a member of Westminster Foundation of Missouri, an Incorporated Body Appointed by Synod, which has jurisdiction over the program of Christian Education for college students and the funds allotted by General Assembly and Synod to support Christian work for Presbyterian young people. The periodical is being published for the first time this year under the supervision of Dr. W. S. Minor, head of the Bible College at the University of Missouri; and Jay Fussell has the honor of being the first editor.

The Session has sponsored Charles Manker Bunce—son of Mr. and Mrs. Beverley Bunce, and grandson of Mrs. C. M. Manker—who has grown up in our church, in his study for the ministry. He is a highly talented young man and a natural leader; and from his earliest years he has taken an active part in music, in the Sunday School, and in the youth work. He will be graduated from Westminster College at Fulton, Missouri, in February, 1943, and then will attend the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. As is usual with young men of the Presbyterian faith who are studying for the ministry, Charles has preached during his college career at Mission churches; and he has had remarkable success. Our best wishes and prayers go out for this young man who so earnestly strives to devote his talents and his whole life to service in the Master's kingdom.

In music also, the young people of our church have contributed as much in recent years as they have in the past. Under the direction of Mrs. L. J. Kovar and Mrs. Jack Ball, they have performed at programs of the Sunday School, the Ladies' Aid and the Woman's Missionary Society meetings—rendering solos, quartettes, choruses, and instrumental numbers. A boys' quartette consisting of Harry Johns, Jr., Paul Rawson, Jr., John Berrian, and Charles Galbraith, has made many appearances at Sunday School and at other meetings. Charles Galbraith, a violinist, and Henry Hulett, a cornetist, have taken part in the musical programs of the church. Harry Johns, Jr., a young baritone of great promise, has sung solos at Sunday School and church services. A Youth Choir has been organized the past year, which gives the Closing Response at the morning service, and sings on other occasions. The girls are robed in white;

and the boys, in black. The following have been members of the Youth Choir: Helen Myers, Bobby Ann Shadwell, Margaret Ann Rawson, Suzanne Haughawout, Joan Van Hoose, Alice Sue Bunce, Janet Switzer, Robert Myers, Henry Hulett, Paul Rawson, Jr., Harry Johns, Jr., John Berrian, and Charles Galbraith.

In the year ending March 31, 1940, the receipts under the Youth Budget Plan were \$359.43; in 1941, \$379.50; and in 1942, \$300.96. Most of the expenditures have been for Sunday School and missionary work.

A very remarkable phenomenon occurred late in the afternoon of August 24, 1939—a terrific hail storm with the largest hail-stones ever known or heard of by the people of this or any other district. To those who did not live here, a description of the size of the hail-stones would sound like “Alice in Wonderland.” Huge, almost square chunks of ice large enough to fill pint measures fell among others much larger than eggs. Most of the roofs in Joplin, Carthage, Webb City, and other near-by towns were badly damaged, with gaping holes letting into the buildings great streams of water. The roof of the Presbyterian Church was damaged to the extent that it cost \$306.45 for repairs. However, the loss was covered by insurance.

On October 31, 1939, at the mid-week service, Dr. J. G. Hilton was the most astonished and delighted person of all those present when the Young People’s Chorus gave a program in honor of his birthday. Mrs. L. J. Kovar had composed the songs which the chorus sang; and Mrs. Beverley Bunce, a letter which was read by Mary Lou Nance. The letter was as follows:

Dear Mr. Hilton:

I want to say for all these friends of yours gathered here tonight that we wish you every happiness on this birthday. We hope you realize how much we appreciate and love you.

We’re like the small boy whose fond mother was chiding him for not showing his love for her, and he said: “Of course, I love you, but I can’t KEEP TELLING you so all the time.” And so, this is one of the times we are TELLING you.

It has been suggested that it’s hard to understand how a man such as you are could have been handed HALLOWE’EN for a birthday. And so we wrote to our good friend, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and asked that the name be changed from HALLOWE’EN to HILTON. He immediately wireessed us:

“Done; we’ll tell the world at once. If you’d like the date of his birthday changed, we’ll accommodate you; we strive to please. Or, maybe, since Hilton is a Scout with the Silver Beaver, you’d like to change the IDEA and have a GOOD DEAL instead of lawlessness prevail. Either change, let me know. I like CHANGE—and also, give my congratulations to Dr. Hilton.”

(Signed) F. D. R.

Sincerely, Dr. Hilton, we wish you happiness, just the things your heart desires; assuredly we all feel YOUR birthday is OUR birthday, and we hope a long train of happy birthdays will be in your line of march. You hold a place in our hearts that time or events will not change.

And so—Happy Birthday on Hilton Day.

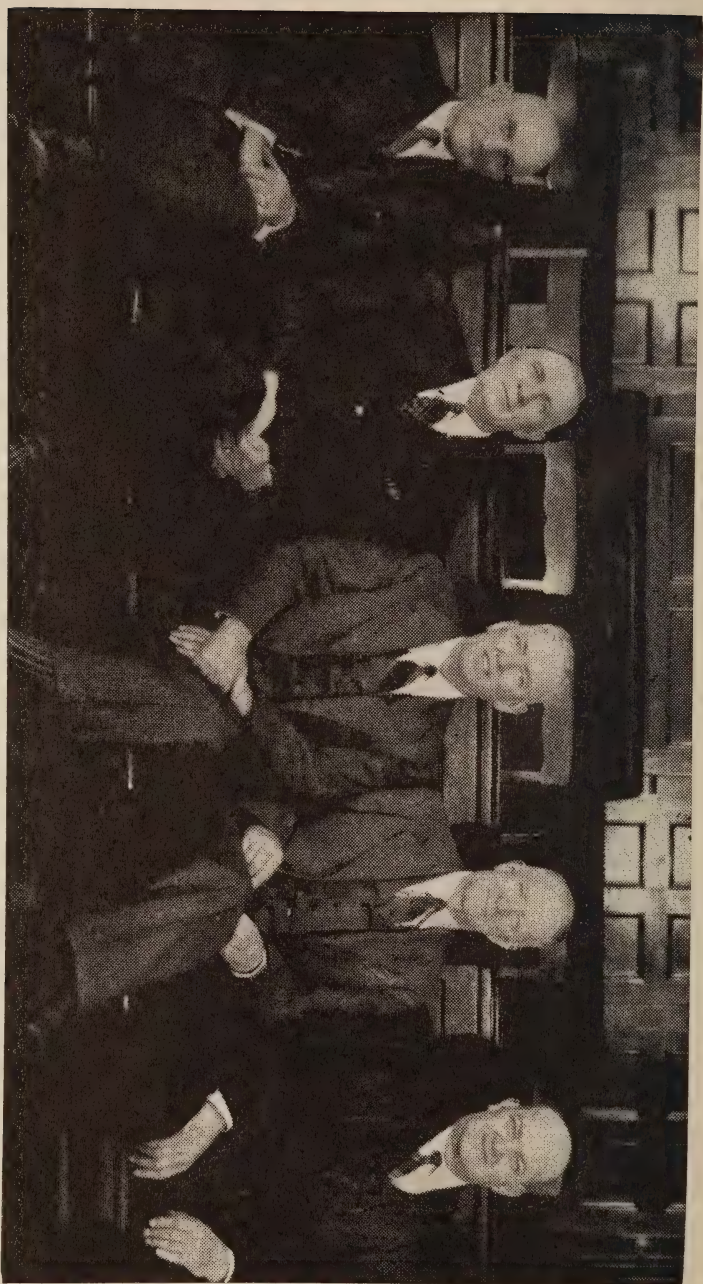
Webb City, Missouri, October 31, 1939.



THE BOARD OF DEACONS, 1942-1943

Standing: Eli P. Switzer, W. C. Myers, Jack Smith, Whitson Kirk, Clyde Beagle, R. D. Toutz, G. W. Jeffries.

Seated: Paul C. Rawson, Mrs. B. C. Aylor, Miss Myra Ferris, Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. J. W. Burrows, J. D. Baldridge, Jr. (President).



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 1942-1943

J. M. Hirons (Secretary and Treasurer), John A. Skinner, A. V. McCorkle (President), F. H. Danglade,
Dr. George W. Cox.

On December 13, 1939, the Session sent a letter expressing appreciation to Hugh O'Neil, of the Inter-City Florists, for the lovely basket of flowers contributed each Sunday.

In the present pastorate, important changes have been made in the three church-directing bodies.

The Board of Deacons, which had been abolished in 1933, was restored at the Congregational meeting of April 19, 1939, when nine deacons were elected for a term of one, two, and three years. In 1941 this board was increased to twelve; and in 1942, to fifteen. The duties of the deacons are to take charge of the "Every Member Canvass" and "Every Member Visitation."

The Board of Trustees was reorganized in 1939 for a different kind of service from that of recent years. Before 1912 the trustees had had control of the finances and Benevolences of the church. Then, in April, 1912, the congregation passed a resolution of the Session to limit the duties of the trustees to the holding of the title of the church property; and unless a building program were in progress, there was little work for the trustees to do, since a committee of the Session had supervision of repairs and maintenance of equipment. Since 1939 the Board of Trustees has had charge of the material properties of the church, just as the Session has the spiritual direction. The trustees are given a regular fund of \$30 a month from the church budget to take care of the church properties. At present there are five members on the board: A. V. McCorkle is president; J. M. Hiron, secretary and treasurer. The other members are J. A. Skinner, F. H. Danglade, and Dr. George W. Cox.

The Session, on April 3, 1940, decided to suggest to the congregation a change in the method of electing elders. The Rotary System had been re-established April 6, 1910; but as each elder was re-elected to succeed himself when his term expired, it had become practically a permanent or life system. Therefore, a resolution was passed that no elder could be re-elected until after a period of one year. This resolution, which was presented at the Congregational meeting of April 17, 1940, recapitulated the action of 1910, and embodied the following:

"Resolved, That this Congregational meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri, held on the 17th day of April, 1940, recognize the action of the Congregational meeting of the church on April 6, 1910, adopting the Rotary System of electing elders, and that the Rotary System be interpreted as meaning that any elder elected for, and serving, a regular term of three years shall not be eligible for election to another term until at least one year shall have elapsed."

This resolution was adopted by the congregation with the further provision that "the rule become effective with the election of elders at the Congregational meeting April 17, 1940, and that it be observed at future elections until repealed by Congregational action". The value of this new method of electing elders is evident. It gives inexperienced and younger men



FORMER AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE SESSION, 1942-1943

Standing: L. V. Galbraith, O. B. Landrum, L. L. Purkhiser, Ralph E. Brown, Edgar Nealy, E. C. Giles, E. E. Wood, C. E. Hall, Ben D. Reynolds.
 Seated: George W. Lott, Harry B. Hulett, E. W. McFarland, the Rev. Louis J. Kovar, C. H. Bentley, A. L. Hosman, Dr. R. M. Stormont, J. D. Baldridge, Sr.

knowledge and training for the very important church office of eldership under the supervision of experienced elders.

On January 18, 1939, Clerk O. B. Landrum began a new record of Minutes of the Session. This book is as perfectly kept as the preceding one and is even more complete than any other Session book. Mr. Landrum, who had served as Clerk of the Session since 1921, could not be re-elected to the eldership in 1940 on account of the new application of the Rotary System. The Session accepted his resignation as Clerk with extreme regret. Lester V. Galbraith was named to this most exacting post of Clerk, and discharged the duties of the office faithfully and effectively during his one-year term. When Mr. Landrum was elected elder again in 1941, he although reluctant, was finally persuaded by the Session to accept again the office of Clerk, which he had so admirably filled for many years.

A Men's Fellowship Group was organized in September, 1939, the committee consisting of J. D. Baldridge, Jr., B. P. Ramey, A. V. McCorkle, J. A. Skinner, and Whitson Kirk.

In the last two years, special features in church work have been introduced, which have provided training for the general membership, and have added enthusiasm and interest to the church work: "Men's Week" in October, in connection with the Father-and-Son idea, when the men of the church take charge of all the services for a week, including the teaching of the Sunday School classes; and "Youth's Week" in January, when the young people have direction of the services.

In January, 1940, a Preaching Mission was conducted by Evangelist Guy Green, of Kansas City, who had carried on evangelistic services here in Dr. Hilton's pastorate. The collection for expenses of this Mission was \$233.99. It was felt by all that the revival was beneficial.

At the Congregational meeting, April 17, 1940, W. C. Ball, president of the Board of Trustees, resigned from the board on account of his health. A motion made by John A. Skinner and seconded by Ben D. Reynolds was passed—that Mr. Ball's resignation be not accepted; and that the Clerk of the Session be instructed to write to Mr. Ball to this effect and express appreciation of his interest and labors in the office as trustee of this church. The ensuing letter was written by the Clerk:

Webb City, Missouri, April 18, 1940.

Mr. W. C. Ball, Webb City, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Ball: Your resignation as a member of the Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church was read at the Congregational meeting yesterday evening, and was rejected.

The members and officers of the church recognize the valuable and cheerful service you have rendered in that position during your term of office since April, 1933, and especially during the last two years, due to the construction of the church Annex and repairing the damage done by the two hail storms last year, as well as other repairs, in which you have taken an active part.

The congregation realize the importance of having capable and experienced men in charge of church property; and the Clerk was instructed

at yesterday's meeting to send you a note of appreciation of your counsel and labor during these periods of stress, and ask you please to reconsider this resignation and withdraw it. The membership will appreciate it.

Yours very truly,

O. B. Landrum, Clerk of the Session.

However, in July, 1940, Mr. Ball's resignation was finally accepted with much reluctance. Mr. Ball, who was a very capable, conscientious, and dependable business man of the church, passed away on August 25, 1941.

(Again "Off the Record.") In April, 1940, the elders and deacons served the Congregational dinner. This was a huge success as the men themselves admitted, although it was rumored that much coaching had been given on the side lines by the ladies. Everyone agreed, however, that aprons were becoming to the men.

Late in 1940, the Sanctuary Choir, which, under the direction of Mrs. J. M. Hiron, has always been a dynamic group in church affairs as well as in music, published a unique "Birthday Calendar", which will be a keepsake. Names listing birthdays of the church members and their relatives were sold at ten cents apiece; and several names were *In Memoriam*. In addition to the advertisements of many Webb City business firms, Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews, Ben D. Reynolds, and J. E. Harsh of Joplin, made special contributions, which were acknowledged in the advertising space by their names and favorite Bible verses. This "Birthday Calendar" has a picture of the church and of the Rev. L. J. Kovar, and quotations of a religious nature. The names sold brought \$47.80; the advertising space and contributions, \$80; the sale of calendars at twenty-five cents each, \$103. These amounts and the \$36 contributed by Miss Treva Gunning to dye the church carpets, totaled \$266.80. The choir bought new robes of dark red color for \$86; supplied the pulpit antependium for \$7.88; upholstered the pulpit chairs at a cost of \$17.67; had the choir curtain and church and pulpit carpets cleaned and dyed for \$46.75; and contributed \$60 to the Aid Society's fund for redecorating the church.

"The Twelve Soliloquize," a sacred pageant written by the Rev. L. J. Kovar, has been presented in our church four times. During the second year at Easter Communion Service, the pageant was given twice to accommodate the people who came to see it. "The Twelve Soliloquize" is a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting, *The Last Supper*, with living personalities in full costume, in which each of the twelve Apostles tells the story of his own life with Christ. "The Twelve Soliloquize" has now been printed for general distribution throughout the Presbyterian denomination, under the direction of Dr. Arthur Limouze, of New York City, chairman of the General Assembly's Committee on United Promotion, as a suggestion for the 1943 World-Wide Communion Service. This



THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Top Row: George W. Lott, Charles Galbraith, John Berrian, Paul Rawson, Jr., Dr. Fred S. Carney.
 Front Row: Mrs. William Wallace (Assistant Organist), Mrs. O. H. Crocker, Mrs. H. E. Newell, Mrs. J. W. Hiron (Director), Mrs. Earl Van Hoose, Mrs. J. G. Hilton.

pageant will appear in the March issue of *The New Century Leader*.

The Webb City Church was host to Carthage Presbytery on "Presbyterian Day" in November, 1941. Roe Bartle of Kansas City, a well known Scout Director, climaxed a day of fellowship, instruction, and spiritual uplift, with an interesting, challenging, and forceful address.

B. P. Ramey, Sunday School Superintendent, resigned September 11, 1940, to go into the United States' military service. John Davisson then carried on this important work as superintendent until August 8, 1941, when he resigned on account of extra war work. Mrs. Beverley Bunce was named to fill this position and was re-elected in 1942. Mrs. Bunce is doing especially good work in organizing the Sunday School Opening Exercises, which consist of illuminating talks, pageants, and plays on special occasions; instrumental and vocal music; and the learning of Bible verses and other subject matter of the Bible by the Sunday School pupils.

Two programs of this year will suffice to show what is being done by the Sunday School young people under the supervision of Mrs. Bunce.

"The Challenge of The Cross" was given at Easter: Mary Lou Nance was the Evangel, and Maxine Cripps, Paul Rawson, Jr., Janet Switzer, Bob Myers, Kenneth Smith, and Mary Margaret Cater were the Disciples. The various type of crosses in Christian discipleship were beautifully illustrated.

At Sunday School, August 9, another sacred dramatic program with a cast of boys was given. This sketch, written by Robert Myers, was entitled "The Report of the Spies." The characters were Henry Hulett, John Berrian, Paul Rawson, Jr., Houston Olson, Edward Carlstead, Coyne Hatten, Billy Graves, and Robert Stults.

New classes have been added to the Sunday School in recent years. The Y. W. Class, with Miss De Etta Williams as teacher in Dr. Hilton's pastorate, later became the Rho Theta Class under the direction of Mrs. Carroll Berrian. The Rho Theta class expanded in 1941 into the Keystone Class of young married men and women, with Mrs. J. F. Gudgen as teacher. Great interest has been maintained in this class. Its growth shows that the teachers have been exceptionally fine, not only as instructors, but as devout Christian women. Also mixed classes of College and Senior Young People have been organized. The teachers of these two classes are Mrs. W. C. Myers and Mrs. Florence Leaver.

Harry B. Hulett's Pioneer Class received permission of the Session on December 4, 1940, to plant shrubbery on the east side of the Annex. This class after several years of association had to disband because of its members' going away to colleges, army camps, and business elsewhere, and asked that it might invest



OFFICERS AND TEACHERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, 1942

Top Row: Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. J. W. Burrows, Mrs. Clara Gillen, George W. Lott.
 Second Row: Mrs. B. C. Aylor, Mrs. O. B. Landrum, Mrs. Edgar Nealy, Mrs. R. C. Baker, Mrs. Carroll Berrian, O. B. Landrum, the Rev. L. J. Kovar.
 First Row: Mrs. J. F. Gudgen, Dick Lewis, J. D. Baldridge, Jr. (Secretary and Treasurer), Mrs. Beverley Bunce (Superintendent), Mrs. Paul C. Rawson, Mrs. Sherman Stines, Edward Carlstead.



Other Officers and Teachers of the Sunday School.

Standing: Max Myers, Mrs. Ralph Brown.

Seated: Mrs. W. C. Myers, Mrs. Florence Leaver, Miss Henrietta Crotty.



The Keystone Class, 1942.

Top Row: Katherine Hall, Whitson Kirk, Dorothy Fussell, Jack Smith, Mary June Gudgen, John Davisson, Rozetta D. Gudgen.

Bottom Row: Aileen Smith, Anita Mae Hall, Mrs. J. F. Gudgen (Teacher), Patricia Davisson, Goldie Kirk.

the balance left in the class treasury in beautifying the church yard. The class, consulting with Mrs. J. R. Kuhn and Mrs. W. C. Ball as advisers, planted several shrubs, two junipers, and a white pine. It was suggested by the class that the pine at some future time might serve the Sunday School and church as an out-door Christmas Tree. This landscaping has added much to the attractive appearance of the Annex lawn.

At a meeting of the Session on June 4, 1941, Elder Harry B. Hulett delivered to the Session the original application to the Circuit Court of Jasper County, dated December 18, 1877, for charter as a corporate religious institution to be known as "The First Presbyterian Church of Webb City, Missouri," which had been duly recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Deeds, at Carthage. The document has been framed, and will hang in the Session Room.

Letters of thanks were sent in 1940 and 1941 by the Session to B. P. Ramey and to John Davisson for their services as Sunday School Superintendent; to Deacon John A. Skinner for his work as Head Usher; to the deacons for their services; to L. L. Purkhiser for his planning of the budget and his work as chairman of the "Every Member Canvass."

There was great rejoicing at the Congregational meeting, April 15, 1942, with J. D. Baldrige, Jr., as chairman, over the fact that a successful year had been passed, and that the church was out of debt, as the mortgage on the Annex had been paid. But a sudden hush and depression of spirit came over the meeting as L. L. Purkhiser read the resignation of Harry B. Hulett, faithful and competent Church Treasurer for thirty-one years. Just as we take the finest things in life for granted, we had assumed that Mr. Hulett would always be the treasurer. Mr. Hulett's letter and the letter of the Clerk of the Session follow:

Webb City, Missouri,
April 15, 1942.

To the Session of the First Presbyterian
Church, Webb City, Missouri.

I hereby submit for your approval my
resignation as Treasurer.

And I want to take this occasion to extend my sincere thanks to you, your predecessors, and the entire membership of this church for the splendid cooperation accorded me during my thirty-one years' tenure of this office.

I am deeply thankful also to my Heavenly Father, who has spared my life that I might devote a portion of my time to His service in this capacity.

I am renewing my allegiance to my Church, and stand ready at all times to do my utmost to advance her interests and influence in our community.

It will be my pleasure to assist my successor, if called upon, in any manner



Harry B. Hulett
Church Treasurer,
1911-1942

possible until such time as he, or she, may be able to properly function.

I trust that action may be taken on the above just as soon as practicable.

Sincerely,

Harry B. Hulett.

Mr. Harry B. Hulett,

Treasurer First Presbyterian Church, Webb City, Mo.

April 17, 1942.

Dear Harry: Your letter of April 15, addressed to the Session of First Presbyterian Church tendering your resignation as Treasurer, was read by Mr. L. L. Purkhiser before the Congregational meeting of the 15th, and was accepted by the congregation under considerable protest and with a great deal of sadness.

The Clerk was requested to send you a letter expressing deep regret over your decision, and a sense of gratitude for the long and efficient service you have rendered the church.

The membership and congregation most assuredly recognize the value of such devotion, and must appreciate the personal sacrifice you have made during these thirty-one years in order to serve the church in this important capacity.

The Session, many of whom have passed on, but who served during your tenure of office, have appreciated this loyalty; and many who are still here will long remember with a deep sense of gratitude, the neatness, the clearness, and the accuracy which your books and reports have always shown.

It is a distinct advantage to any organization to have among its members men who are capable and willing to serve in various capacities—teacher, counsellor, treasurer, elder. In all these capacities you have served splendidly.

While the Session regrets your retiring from this important position, we appreciate your continued interest and assurance that the church can rely upon you for whatever service it may find occasion to call upon you to render.

It is our earnest prayer that you may be spared for many more years of Christian service.

Yours very cordially,

O. B. Landrum, Clerk of the Session.

Some time later the members of the church, Dr. J. G. Hilton, and the Rev. L. J. Kovar sent Mr. Hulett a concrete expression of gratitude and affection in the form of three gifts: a floor lamp, a lounging robe, and a copy of Thompson's Chain-Reference Bible. At a subsequent Wednesday evening service, Mr. Hulett publicly expressed his appreciation of these gifts.

The Session, after much consideration, made, on June 3, 1942, a very wise choice for the new Church Treasurer—L. V. Galbraith, who has proved himself capable and conscientious: as a member of the Session for nine years and Clerk for one year; Superintendent of the Sunday School for about six years; and the temporary treasurer during Mr. Hulett's illness.

The Men's Bible Class has recently undertaken a very worthy project: listing the young men now in military service who have been connected with



L. V. Galbraith
Present Church Treasurer

the Presbyterian Church, Sunday School, or Boy Scout Troop 25; and furnishing church stationery and postage for letters sent to them by the members of the congregation. These young men in service at the writing of this history are:

Alton G. Adams, Harry R. Ball, Robert G. Brown, Wm. C. Burch, Jr., William R. Chinn, James D. Corl, Jr., Wm. J. Cochran, Jr., Robert Joseph Baker, Beauford Fosdick, Cecil H. Giles, Otto H. Hayward, Robert Hitner, Richard K. Hulett, Elroy M. Hulett, Robert Hendricks, William H. Hizar, Sam Jenkins, Randolph Gibson, John R. Lewis, Charles Raymond Magruder, Tom Imel, Dr. C. W. Meinershagen, Kenneth Motley, Glenn Johnston, Frank C. Nelson, Jr., Paul Smith, Jr., Merrill Smith, LeRoy Skinner, Herbert Stogsdill, W. E. Switzer, B. P. Ramey, John Rountree, Malcolm Rountree, Nelson E. Thomas, Richard Thralls, J. B. Thompson, Nelson O. Wampler, Charles D. Wiggins, George B. Wiggins, Hal M. Wise, Jr., Lloyd Wood, John Bentley, Robert Heilman, Richard B. Prince, Donald Mohr, William Myers, George Wise, and Dick Bentley.

In 1941, the manse was painted. Also, the main church auditorium was redecorated: the walls were tinted and the ceiling finished with ceiling-board—all in cream and dark brown; the floors were finished as hardwood, the carpets and upholstering dyed, and the organ re-leathered and redecorated. A new Communion Service was purchased, consisting of six sets of plates and glasses.

One might be interested in reading the Church Budget for 1941-1942 planned by the Finance Committee—Leonard L. Purkiser, chairman.

Pastor's Salary	\$2,100	Bulletins, programs, etc....	\$ 275
Benevolences	400	Light, heat, water, fuel....	300
Custodian	515	Organ upkeep	125
Insurance on Church		Per capita tax	100
property	275	Trustees, for improvem'ts	360
Church's part of Pension..	180	Equipment	50
Total	\$4,680		

The Woman's Missionary Society, during the years 1939 to 1942, continued the excellent programs of the past: inspiring devotionals with music, excellent reviews of missionary books and magazine articles, and stirring dramatizations of the work of Home and Foreign Missions. At the "Annual Praise Service", October 29, 1941, Mrs. Leila Bruce Ellsworth of Indianapolis, a former member of the church here, gave a very impressive and artistic reading of "The Youngest Thief".

The membership of the society has ranged in the past three years around fifty, all being active. The usual amount, about \$425, was raised each year, by pledges, collections, "Annual Praise-Service" offering, luncheons, and study classes; most of the money was sent to Foreign and National Missions; also the society has kept up its contributions to Over-Seas and Hospital work.



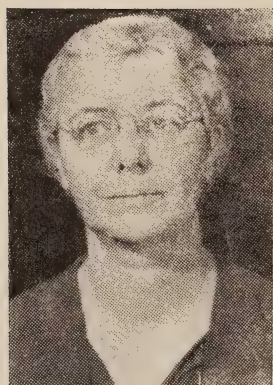
Mrs. B. C. Aylor
Recording Secretary of
Carthage Presbyterial.



Mrs. O. B. Landrum
President of Carthage
Presbyterial.



Mrs. W. C. Myers
President of the
Women's Association.
Secretary of Junior
High Group of Car-
thage Presbyterial.



Mrs. Beverley Bunce
Superintendent of the
Sunday School since
1941.



Mrs. L. J. Kovar
Wife of the Rev. Louis
J. Kovar.



Miss Treva Gunning
Member of the
Board of Deacons.

The review of missionary and other religious books on Wednesday evenings, after covered-dish dinners, for a period of six weeks in the spring and fall, has been very helpful and edifying. The talent of the men and the young people of the church has been drawn into these programs: and this fellowship, which brings all together in one common cause, has meant much to the church. In Mr. Kovar's pastorate, the six-weeks' study period in spring and fall, has been expanded to include all Wednesday night services from September to June; and a general program of Christian education in addition to the study of Missions has been taken up. Recently, a survey of Latin-American countries, the "Good-Neighbor Policy", and hemisphere solidarity, from a missionary as well as an economic and political point of view, has been informative and illuminating.

For the years 1941 and 1942, Mrs. O. B. Landrum has been president of the Carthage Presbyterial; Mrs. B. C. Aylor, recording secretary, and Mrs. W. C. Myers, secretary of the Junior Group. Mrs. Landrum attended Quadrennial (obviously a meeting every four years of an assembly of women of the Presbyterials corresponding to National Assembly of the Presbyteries) at Atlantic City from May 11 to 18, 1942.

Besides giving excellent resumes of the Quadrennial at the Missionary and Presbyterial meetings, Mrs. Landrum, at special request of the Session, occupied the pulpit on Sunday morning, August 9, and gave an interesting and stimulating report of the great convocation in her usual earnest and inspiring manner. At the Quadrennial there were over six hundred representatives from Presbyterial and Synodical groups and delegates-at-large. Sixty-six speakers had for the general program theme, "For Such a Time as This", with such challenging topics as "What Are We Building for Tomorrow and the Day after That?"; "How Is the Church Working toward Unity?" Over four hundred women attended every day, the Spiritual Life Group, which met at seven o'clock in the morning. Such interest manifested at an early hour in the day shows how spiritually minded are the women of the Presbyterials. These organizations have heretofore worked with two boards: the National Missions and Home Missions; now a third board has been added—that of Christian Education.

The minutes of the Ladies' Aid Society from October, 1940, to July, 1942, by the secretary, Mrs. J. D. Corl, and the records of the treasurer, Mrs. T. C. Hayden, give a good idea of the numerous and profitable activities of that progressive society in recent years. One of the most beautiful and enjoyable undertakings was the Flower Show, October 3-4, 1940, from which \$79.20 was realized. The Wild Brothers, of Sarcoxie, and the Inter-City Florists, of our city, presented the displays; and amateur exhibits of beautiful roses, dahlias, and cacti from the people of the district were shown, and were judged by Mr. Dale Wild for blue, red, and white ribbons. Another delightful

project was the Pilgrimage to the Sarcxie peony fields, May 20, 1941, and the tea party afterward in the garden of Mrs. R. M. Stormont's home, from which \$30.75 was cleared. Notes of thanks were sent to Mr. Wild for displaying his beautiful flowers, and to the Coca-Cola Company for furnishing the refreshing drink at the tea. We read of the ladies having "Surprise Breakfasts", which brought in \$109.06, and several rummage sales; of their saving Crisco wrappers and "Sunny Sue" pennies; of their quilting parties and their selling towels, magazines, and metal sponges; of their big bazaar and food sale, December 1, 1941, in conjunction with the Missionary Society, which netted \$162.21; of their serving a number of banquets or luncheons, such as the Junior-Senior, the Study Club, the Delta Kappa Gamma, the National Honor Society, the Alethean, the Art Club, the Rotary Anns, the Father-and-Son.

In addition to the observance of special-day programs, such as Christmas gift exchange, Valentine, Washington's Birthday, New Year's, Home Coming, May Day, and days significant in the church, two very interesting book reviews were given by Mrs. Charles Davisson.

Space does not permit the listing of all the remarkable things accomplished by the Aid Society since 1939. Besides donations to the Community Chest, Jane Chinn Hospital, the P. T. A. Milk Fund, and to the Red Cross work—sewing and knitting, as well as cash contributions, this organization completely redecorated the Sanctuary in 1941 with the help of the choir, at a cost of \$496.87; made repairs and additions, such as a new sink, to the equipment of the manse; paid each year \$120 to the church custodian; bought china, linens, glassware, folding chairs, a stairway door, light fixtures, gas heaters, coat racks, kitchen linoleum, kitchen and rest room supplies; built a platform in the Annex and provided curtains for this platform. In the meantime, the society had paid nearly five hundred dollars a year on the principal and interest of the loan on the Annex, and had reduced the loan to \$2,880, according to Mrs. C. M. Manker's report, January 16, 1942.

Mrs. John A. Skinner, who became president of the Ladies' Aid Society in 1941 (Mrs. J. R. Kuhn having asked for release from active duty), continued the plans and work of her predecessor to decrease the debt. On January 16, 1942, it was decided that the building committee—Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, Mrs. O. B. Landrum, Mrs. L. L. Ashcraft, Mrs. T. F. Coyne, Mrs. W. C. Ball, Mrs. J. M. Hirons, and Mrs. C. M. Manker—should meet with the Board of Trustees to see if the debt could not be paid off at once. Mrs. Kuhn reported to the society on January 30 that a plan had been devised, which if carried out, would clear the Annex debt. By a whirlwind campaign, the money was raised; Mrs. Skinner announced on March 13, 1942, that a check to clear the indebtedness on the Church Annex had been sent to Church Loan Board. Plans were made to combine the

Dedication of the Annex with the celebration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the church on March 27, 1942. Thus in three years, a debt to be paid in ten years was settled.

Besides this triumphant achievement, another very important event has occurred this year. There has been a general tendency in the Presbyterian, and other churches, to unite the two women's organizations. Since all the members of Woman's Missionary Society of the Webb City Presbyterian Church were also members of the Ladies' Aid Society, it was decided that better work could be done at less expenditure of time and money by a united society working in groups. The plans for federation were presented by Mrs. J. D. Baldrige, Jr., at a meeting early in 1942. Two meetings a month were planned: the all-day entire-membership meeting in the Church Annex, and the circle or group meetings in the homes of the members.

The plans were accepted by the Ladies' Aid Society on March 13, 1942; and officers were elected at a combined meeting of the Missionary and the Aid Society on April 10. Mrs. W. C. Myers, president of the Missionary Society, was elected president of the new organization; and being a very capable woman, a good leader and organizer, she will prove a worthy successor of Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, Mrs. J. A. Skinner, and other presidents of the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies in the past. Mrs. J. D. Baldrige, Jr., is first vice president; Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser, second vice president; Mrs. Eli Switzer, secretary; and Mrs. D. L. Fussell, treasurer—all of whom will conscientiously and efficiently serve as first officers of the federated group. An expression of appreciation was given to the retiring treasurer of the Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. T. C. Hayden, who had competently performed the duties of that responsible office for nearly twenty-five years.

At the meeting on April 24, the name suggested by Mrs. J. G. Hilton—The Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church—was adopted; and the first officers of the new organization were installed by Mrs. O. B. Landrum, president of Carthage Presbyterial.

The Women's Association will emphasize spiritual life of the church and missionary work both of which had been supreme objectives of the Woman's Missionary Society. Also, it will assume the work of the Ladies' Aid Society: providing the social life and fellowship of the church and contributing to church finances for equipment, supplies, and other necessary expenditures.

At the July meeting, the chairmen of the four groups or circles were announced—Mrs. E. C. Giles, Mrs. C. B. Nance, Mrs. C. H. Bentley, and Mrs. T. J. Roney; and the names of the members were drawn. The constitution of the new federation was read by Mrs. O. B. Landrum. A group of Business and Professional Women was organized later, September 18, 1942, with Mrs. Wesley Burrows, chairman.



OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Standing: Mrs. O. B. Landrum, Mrs. C. E. Hall, Mrs. J. W. Burrows, Mrs. E. C. Giles, Mrs. C. B. Nance, Miss Callie Purkhiser, Mrs. T. J. Roney, Miss Caroline Hacker.

Seated: Mrs. B. C. Aylor (Missionary Chairman), Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser (Vice President), Mrs. J. D. Baldrige, Jr. (Vice President), Mrs. W. C. Myers (President), Mrs. Eli Switzer (Secretary), Mrs. A. V. McCorkle (Corresponding Secretary), Mrs. D. L. Fussell (Treasurer).

That the Women's Association is continuing the excellent work of the ladies' organizations of the past is proved by this most recent purchase—Venetian blinds for the Annex banquet room windows, which have added much to the tasteful appearance of this attractive room.

Thus has ended the story of two illustrious organizations of women of the church, who from the earliest beginnings have supplemented and strengthened, illuminated and inspired, every part of church work. We know that this extraordinary record will repeat itself just as splendidly in the annals of the Women's Association.

A brief summary of the Annual Reports for the year 1941-1942, given at the Congregational meeting, April, 1942, is as follows:

Church—

Membership 455.

Receipts \$4,431.43. Balance on hand \$90.63.

Sunday School—

Membership 221; average attendance 160.

Receipts \$434.10 (\$271.50 spent for S. S. supplies).

Men's Bible Class receipts \$75.10 (\$48.25 to S. S.).

Kate Cameron Pratt Class receipts \$143.75 (\$27.77 to S. S.).

Women's Bible Class receipts \$237.40 (\$99.92 to S. S.).

Board of Trustees—

Receipts \$689.58.

Balance on hand \$92.71.

Ladies' Aid Society—

Receipts \$676.90.

Balance on hand \$229.07.

Missionary Society—

Receipts \$453.57.

Balance on hand \$90.52.

Disbursements: To National Missions \$165.00.

To Foreign Missions \$165.00.

Building Fund—

Receipts \$3,678.40 (Balance paid on debt \$2,880).

Balance on hand \$123.56.

Since April of this year thirty-three new members have been added to the roll; and the total church membership at present writing is 488. On April 19, 1942, Private Donald Moore of Grand Island, Nebraska, but from Camp Crowder, was examined, baptized, and received into the fellowship of the Webb City Presbyterian Church by Presbyterian Chaplain Snuffer of Camp Crowder, who was acting as Moderator.

Extra! Since this history has been sent to the printer, a very unusual event has occurred—the arrival of Baby Linn Sergeant Kovar, November 2, 1942—the only child born to a family in the manse while the father was pastor here. Baby Linn was born in an auspicious year of the church. May it indicate a bright future for him.

This history of the church would not be complete without its culminating event—the Dedication of the Annex and the Celebration of the Sixty-fifth Anniversary of the Church. The Rev. Louis J. Kovar suggested and planned, with the help of the Ladies' Aid Society, the anniversary program, which included the Dedication of the Annex. A series of five programs commemorating the sixty-five years of history was given from March 18 to 27, 1942. The former ministers of the church, the Presbyterian ministers of the district, and the ministers of other churches were invited to participate in this great event. The commemoration of the sixty-fifth anniversary has been continued through the year in the writing and publication of this history.

The anniversary series opened with a covered-dish dinner on Wednesday evening, May 18, 1942, at which Dr. John G. Hilton was the guest speaker. The Joplin and Webb City newspapers reported on March 19, that when L. L. Purkhiser, as Master of Ceremonies, introduced Dr. Hilton with a beautiful and stirring tribute of esteem and devotion, the great crowd who had gathered to honor this beloved pastor, who had spent nearly thirty years in their midst, stood and applauded for many minutes. Dr. Hilton gave a brief survey of the work accomplished by the church in sixty-five years, and highly entertained the crowd with reminiscences of his pastorate here. The music was led by Mrs. J. M. Hirons, and the Sanctuary Choir sang a beautiful anthem, "Pilgrim's Journey", with Miss Caroline Hacker as accompanist.

At the Sunday morning service on March 22, the Rev. L. J. Kovar reviewed in an impressive manner the history of the church with its sixty-five years of growth and activity, service and leadership in the Webb City community, and its national and international Missionary work.

On Sunday evening a program of "Historic Sidelights" was featured in which several prominent church leaders for many years gave entertaining recollections of different periods of church history: Mrs. T. J. Roney, E. W. McFarland, Mrs. C. M. Manker, Mrs. O. B. Landrum, Mrs. J. G. Hilton, Mrs. B. C. Aylor, L. L. Purkhiser, Ben D. Reynolds, and Mrs. W. C. Myers. Lovely music by the choir and a procession by the young people, who took part in a beautiful Candle-Lighting Service, made an effective climax to this memorable evening service, which had been planned by Mrs. C. M. Manker.

On Wednesday evening, March 25, another covered-dish dinner was held, at which Dr. and Mrs. Charles B. Boving, of Holden, Missouri, were the guests of honor. Dr. Boving was the pastor under whom the present church Sanctuary was built, and was warmly greeted by a great number of old friends, who had distinct memories of his remarkable work here. The Rev. L. J. Kovar was Master of Ceremonies, and Mrs. J. M. Hirons had charge of the music. Dr. Boving gave an interesting retrospect of his pastorate in Webb City and his life in later years.

Best of all were his summary of his life experiences and his reflections on life and its meaning in its highest sense. A reception for Dr. and Mrs. Boving was held on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. C. M. Manker.

The great finale of all this enjoyable and inspirational celebration, so fraught with memory and meaning, was the Dedication of the Annex on Friday, March 27—exactly sixty-five years after the founding of the church. A great banquet was provided, the Ladies' Aid Society furnishing the meat, ice cream, and coffee; the other church members, the rest of the menu in covered dishes.

The tables were beautifully decorated and a large birthday cake with sixty-five candles—a lovely work of art made by Mrs. W. H. Tholborn—formed the attractive centerpiece of the Speakers' Table.

Everyone had a part in the burning of the mortgage; for the members of the congregation, marching and singing "Onward Christian Soldiers", fed the flames in the brazier with small pieces of the mortgage. The entire program was as follows:

THE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

March 27, 1942

Invocation.....The Rev. Otto C. Seymour, Ph. D., D. D.

The Dinner Hour.

Welcome to Guests.

Greetings from Other Churches.

Duet—"Forever With the Lord".....Gounod

Mrs. J. M. Hiron, Mrs. Earl VanHoose.

Miss Caroline Hacker, Accompanist.

Sermon.....The Rev. Ralph A. Waggoner, D. D.
(Executive Secretary of the Synod of Missouri.)

Burning the Mortgage:

Mr. J. M. Hiron, Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Mrs. J. R. Kuhn, "Songs in Our Hearts".

Mrs. J. A. Skinner, President of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Mrs. O. B. Landrum, "We Thank Thee, Lord".

Dedication of the Church Annex:

The People and the Pastor, the Rev. Louis J. Kovar.

The Dedicatory Prayer:

The Rev. John G. Hilton, D. D.

The Hymn....."The Church's One Foundation"

The Benediction.

During this series of meetings the pastors and several former members from nearby cities attended one or more of the meetings. Among these were Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Hilton, of Webb City; Dr. and Mrs. Otto C. Seymour, of Joplin First Presbyterian Church; the Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Love of Bethany Presbyterian Church, of Joplin; Dr. and Mrs. David McCleve, of Columbus, Kansas; Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Mace, of First Presbyterian Church, Carthage; Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Boving, of

Holden, Missouri; the Rev. Ralph A. Waggoner, D. D., of Sedalia; Dean and Mrs. H. E. Blaine, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Reynolds, L. R. Reynolds, Jr., Robert Reynolds, Charles Reynolds, Mrs. W. A. Corl, Mrs. Blanche Freeman—all of Joplin. The pastors of the Webb City churches sent letters expressing felicitations. Telegrams and letters were received from former members, from Dr. Hilton's friends, from the Rev. L. J. Kovar's friends and associates in his previous pastorates, from Dr. J. F. Shepherd, and Dr. J. H. Speer.

The beautiful Dedication ceremony was a fitting conclusion to the two weeks' celebration which commemorated the founding of the Webb City Presbyterian Church and its progress through the years; and will always be one of the delectable and refreshing points whereat to pause along the memory trail and to recapture the vision and the gleam of those noble souls of our church who have carried forward the glorious banners of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thus, our history ends where it began—the sixty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the church. We are grateful to the founders and others of our church whose work has made the sixty-five years replete with Christian service. However, the work of the Lord will always be unfinished business until Christ comes to claim His own. It is ever, "Onward, Christian Soldiers". We must continue to advance spiritually, for growth is the law of life. We must, as a church and as individuals, do our part in helping solve the stupendous educational, economic, and social problems of the world today, on the basis of the Golden Rule, the "Good-Neighbor" policy, and the teachings of the Prince of Peace; and we must see to it that our moral and spiritual development keeps pace with scientific progress, or the Frankenstein monsters of this machine age will destroy all that we hold dear: our American way of life, our precious liberties which uphold and preserve our ideals—the sanctity of human life, the rights of the individual, the self-respect of the human spirit—and the privilege to worship the God of our fathers. The enemies of Christianity not only come from without, but they are from within. They are indifference and irreverence, love of pleasure and lack of any serious, earnest purpose in life, and the worship of false gods of money, power, and self. Truly, there is much work to be done by the church if it is to save itself and spread the gospel of righteousness, salvation, and "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men". A study of totalitarian nations has shown that when the Church was attacked and destroyed, all was lost that a Christian civilization has spent long, hard centuries of "blood, sweat, and tears" to attain. Let our church and other churches gird themselves anew with the armor of God described by St. Paul in Ephesians and "fight the good fight by faith".

Our country is in the midst of the most dreadful war the world has ever known. The future of our civilization, our democracy, our Christian religion, is hanging in the balance. Before the treacherous Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, our Presbyterian church was contributing generously to relief organizations and to Missions, and working actively through the Red Cross in order to alleviate suffering and distress in nations either enslaved by Germany or fighting against Axis domination. Since the Axis powers attacked our nation and then declared war on us, our church, together with other churches and other loyal American institutions, is doing everything in its power to aid the war effort, buying war stamps and bonds, contributing to war relief and to U. S. O. work at Camp Crowder in entertaining soldiers and furnishing recreation rooms, writing to our Webb City Presbyterian boys at other camps, voluntarily and cheerfully complying with all war time regulations such as sugar and coffee apportioning, tire and gasoline rationing, and praying all the time that the dreadful carnage of war may be stopped.

However, the greater task lies ahead: We must WIN THE WAR, which is being fought against the powers of darkness, so that decency, freedom, honor, justice, truth, human kindness, and sympathy, and over all the Spirit of Christ—may prevail as cherished principles in our own lives, in our beloved America, and in other nations of this war-torn world. Then, as it has been succinctly expressed, we must “WIN THE PEACE”. Our own Presbyterian church and all other churches must concentrate all efforts to have America take the spiritual leadership in world affairs and establish a just and lasting peace so that never again may a ruthless dictator with hatred in his heart for other nations and races than his own, plunge the whole world into the cataclysm of war—a just peace in that the economic resources of the world may be shared by all; a lasting peace based on good will to all men everywhere. We must pray unceasingly that those at the head of the governments of the democracies will be divinely guided to bring “liberty and justice for all”. Above all, our church must set forth and stress to the materialistic world about us, a revival of religion—the religion of our forefathers, who established the nation on a basis of freedom and righteousness; and it must carry on renewed and intensified missionary work that will make “disciples of all men” for the kingdom of God, so that the brotherhood of men may become more than a beautiful dream.

Our Presbyterian Church is already beginning to study ways and means for a permanent peace in a Christian world after the war. May God speed its efforts!

The past generations of the church challenge the present and the future; other strong hands and unfaltering hearts must

continue to carry on the great work of saving the world for Christ. Those faithful Christians of the past say:

*"To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high."*

We know the younger generation will not fail; they will keep the faith.

*"So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, THOU MUST!
The youth replies, I CAN."*

May God's richest blessings fall on this church through another sixty-five years of endeavor to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit and to establish God's Kingdom on earth.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

1942

Pastor—The Rev. Louis J. Kovar

Clerk of the Session—O. B. Landrum.

Treasurer—L. V. Galbraith.

Director of Every Member Canvass—L. L. Purkhiser.

Director of Youth Budget—Miss Myra Ferris.

Telephone Committee—Mrs. E. E. Wood and Mrs. Eva Edwards.

THE SESSION

Louis J. Kovar, Moderator

1943

C. H. Bentley
Edgar Nealy
L. L. Purkhiser
E. E. Wood

1944

Geo. W. Lott
O. B. Landrum
R. E. Brown

1945

B. D. Reynolds
R. M. Stormont
L. V. Galbraith

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. V. McCorkle,
President (1945)

J. M. Hirons,
Secretary and Treas-
urer (1943)

Dr. Geo. W. Cox (1943)
Frank Danglade (1944)
J. A. Skinner (1945)

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

1943

Whitson Kirk
Paul C. Rawson
R. D. Toutz
Eli P. Switzer
Mrs. J. W. Burrows

1944

B. P. Ramey
Mrs. B. C. Aylor
W. C. Myers
Clyde Beagle
Miss Treva Gunning

1945

J. D. Baldridge, Jr.,
President
Mrs. C. M. Manker
Miss Myra Ferris
G. W. Jeffries
Jack Smith

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Director—Mrs. J. M. Hirons

Organist—Mrs. W. C. Ball

Assistant Organists—Mrs. William Wallace, Miss Rozetta Gudgeon

The Choir—

Mrs. J. M. Hirons,
Soprano
Mrs. J. G. Hilton,
Soprano
Mrs. Earl Van Hoose,
Soprano
E. C. Giles,
Tenor

Paul Rawson, Jr.,
Tenor
Dr. Fred S. Carney,
Tenor
Mrs. Helen Yost,
Alto
Mrs. Tom Lowe,
Alto

Miss Mary June Gudgen,
Alto
Mrs. H. E. Newell,
Alto
Geo. W. Lott, Bass
John Berrian, Bass
Charles Galbraith,
Bass

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent—Mrs. Beverley Bunce

Secy.-Treas.—J. D. Baldridge, Jr. Song Leader—Dr. Fred S. Carney

Assistant Secy.—Max Myers Pianist—Miss Rozetta Gudgen

Membership Secretary—Mrs. Helen Hatten

BEGINNER'S DEPARTMENT—

Supt. Mrs. C. M. Manker
Miss Helen Myers
Mrs. Norval Matthews

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT—

Supt. Mrs. Sherman Stines
Mrs. Lora Wiggins
Mrs. Clara Gillen
Mrs. Arthur Campbell

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT—

Supt. Mrs. O. B. Landrum
Mrs. Clyde Beagle
Edward Carlstead
Mrs. Roy Jenkins

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT—

Supt. Mrs. R. C. Baker
Mrs. S. W. Bates
Mrs. Carroll Berrian
O. B. Landrum
C. R. Haughwout

SENIOR DEPARTMENT—

Supt. Mrs. Paul Rawson
Mrs. J. W. Burrows
Mrs. Florence Leaver
Mrs. W. C. Myers

NURSERY—

Supt. Mrs. Edgar Nealy
Miss Barbara Johns

HOME DEPARTMENT—

Supt. Mrs. J. E. Potts

CRADLE ROLL—

Supt. Mrs. Ralph E. Brown

WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS

President—Mrs. W. C. Ball
Vice President—Mrs. J. G. Hilton
Secretary—Mrs. B. A. Dumbauld
Treasurer—Mrs. J. A. Skinner
Courtesy Committee—
Mrs. L. L. Ashcraft
Mrs. T. F. Coyne
Asst. Teacher—Dr. John G. Hilton

Teacher—Miss Henrietta Crotty
Custodian of Birthday Fund—
Mrs. T. F. Coyne
Secretary for Shut-ins—
Mrs. O. B. Landrum
Telephone Committee—
Mrs. Eva Edwards
Miss Margaret Helm

KATE CAMERON PRATT BIBLE CLASS

President—Mrs. Lewis Burris Teacher—Mrs. B. C. Aylor
Vice President—Mrs. Jack Ball Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Hugh Wilhite

KEYSTONE CLASS

President—Mrs. Whitson Kirk Teacher—Mrs. J. F. Gudgen
Vice President—Jack Parrish Secretary—Bruce Waggoner
Treasurer—Mrs. John Davisson

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

President—E. C. Giles Teacher—George W. Lott
Vice President—Paul Rawson Secretary and Treasurer—
Pianist—Miss Caroline Hacker Arthur Shadwell

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

President—Mrs. W. C. Myers	Group Chairmen—
Vice Presidents— Mrs. J. D. Baldrige, Jr. Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser	No. 1—Mrs. E. C. Giles No. 2—Mrs. C. B. Nance No. 3—Mrs. C. H. Bentley No. 4—Mrs. T. J. Roney No. 5—Mrs. Wesley Burrows
Recording Secretary—Mrs. Eli Switzer	
Corresponding Secretaary— Mrs. A. V. McCorkle	Pianists—
Treasurer—Mrs. D. L. Fussell	Miss Caroline Hacker Mrs. T. C. Hayden
Missionary Chairman—Mrs. B. C. Aylor	

THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

SENIORS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

President—Margaret Ann Rawson	Sponsors—
Vice President—Edward Carlstead	Mrs. J. W. Burrows, Jack Smith
Secretary—Janet Switzer	Y. Budget Representative— Houston Olson
Music—Helen Myers, John Berrian	Representative to Presbytery— Harry D. Johns
Program—Bobby Ann Shadwell	Publicity—Robert Myers
Recreation—Henry Hulett	Membership— Billy Baker, Suzanne Haughawout
Service—Alice Sue Bunce	

INTERMEDIATES

Sponsors—Mrs. W. C. Myers, Mrs. L. L. Purkhiser

BOY SCOUTS

Scoutmaster—R. C. Baker	Troop Committee—
Assistant Scoutmaster—Max Myers	L. J. Kovar J. D. Baldrige, Jr.
Junior Assistants— Clyde Elliott, Billy Baker	Whitson Kirk Dr. J. G. Hilton Roy Thomas Harry B. Hulett A. F. Fahrman Beverley Bunce
Scribe—Robert Myers	

GIRL SCOUTS

Leader—Miss Faye Mahoney	Executive Committee—
Leader of Brownies—Miss Alene Bates	Chairman—Mrs. Willard Smith Mrs. Ralph Record Mrs. O. H. Crocker
Assistant Leader—Mrs. Dorsey Watson	

Church Custodian—W. A. Jordan

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ROLL, DECEMBER, 1942.

Adams, Geo. Alton	Bunce, Beverley	Crocker, Dr. O. H.
Alexander, Miss Marguerite	Bunce, Mrs. Beverley	Crocker, Mrs. O. H.
Alson, Mrs. Marion	Bunce, Charles M.	Crotty, Miss Henrietta
Alter, Mrs. Maxine Adams	Bunce, Miss Alice Sue	Crowl, Mrs. Bertha
Altherr, Mrs. Imogene	Burch, William, Jr.	Coyne, Mrs. T. F.
Ashcraft, Mrs. Carrie L.	Burris, Mrs. Lewis	Cullen, Mrs. Alta Gilmer
Aylor, Mrs. Ben C.	Burris, Miss Lois Dean	Cummings, Mrs. John
Aylor, Miss Margaret	Burris, Robert Oliver	Curry, Miss Mary
	Burrows, J. W.	Curry, George Fantley
	Burrows, Mrs. J. W.	
Baldrige, J. D.	Burwick, Mrs. Alva	Danglade, Frank H.
Baldrige, Mrs. J. D.	Burwick, Miss Ellena Grace	Danglade, Mrs. Frank H.
Baldrige, J. D., Jr.	Butts, Mrs. R. C.	Danglade, Jack F.
Baldrige, Mrs. J. D., Jr.		Danglade, Miss June
Baldrige, George	Carney, Dr. Fred S.	Danglade, Murray
Baldrige, Frank	Carney, Mrs. Fred S.	Daugherty, Lee A., Sr.
Baker, Robert C.	Carney, Miss Ada	Daugherty, Mrs. Lee A., Sr.
Baker, Mrs. Robert C.	Margaret	Daugherty, Lee A., Jr.
Baker, Robert, Jr.	Cary, Miss Jessie	Davis, Mrs. W. L.
Baker, William	Carlstead, E. R.	Davisson, Charles C.
Ball, Mrs. Bessie	Carlstead, Mrs. E. R.	Davisson, Mrs. Charles C.
Ball, Harry R.	Carlstead, Edward	Davisson, John
Ball, Mrs. W. C.	Carlstead, Robert H.	Davisson, Mrs. John
Ball, George W.	Carmack, Jack	Davisson, Miss Lela Ann
Ball, Mrs. George W.	Carnes, Miss Maudie	Davisson, Miss Marjorie
Ball, Jack W.	Carter, Mrs. John	Doss, Mrs. Marion T.
Ball, Mrs. Jack W.	Chadwell, Mrs. Ivan	
Bartlett, Norman R.	Chinn, Mrs. C. R., Jr.	Elliott, Mrs. Raymond
Bartlett, Mrs. Norman R.	Chinn, Billy	Edwards, Mrs. A. L.
Bates, Mrs. S. W.	Clark, D. H.	
Beagle, Clyde C.	Clark, Mrs. D. H.	Faubion, Noel J.
Beagle, Mrs. Clyde C.	Cochrane, Wm. J.	Faubion, Mrs. Noel J.
Bellairst, Mrs. W. F.	Cochrane, Mrs. Wm. J.	Farrington, Mrs. Richard
Bellairst, Harry W.	Cochrane, Wm. J., Jr.	Ferris, Miss Myra
Bellairst, Mrs. Harry W.	Coffee, Mrs. Elda	Flournoy, Edward M.
Bentley, C. H.	Coffee, James C.	Flournoy, Mrs. Edw. M.
Bentley, Mrs. C. H.	Coffee, James Keaton	Flournoy, Miss Mary Jo
Bentley, John	Coffee, Mrs. Robert	Fosdick, Mrs. Helen
Bentley, Richard	Combs, John M.	Fosdick, Buford
Bentley, Miss Marian	Corl, James D., Sr.	Fosdick, Jack
Bentley, James	Corl, Mrs. James D., Sr.	Foss, Elwin Marlowe
Benward, John	Corl, James D., Jr.	Foss, Mrs. Elwin Marlowe
Berrian, Mrs. Carroll	Corl, William	Fussell, D. L.
Berrian, John Dear	Correll, Virgil H.	Fussell, Mrs. D. L.
Bevier, Raymond	Correll, Cordelia B.	Fussell, Jerome J.
Blankenship, Mrs. Lynn	Covurn, Mrs. Margaret Lann	
Boyd, John W.	Cox, Dr. George W.	Galbraith, Lester V.
Boyd, Mrs. John W.	Cox, Mrs. George W.	Galbraith, Mrs. Lester V.
Brown, Ralph E.	Cox, Miss Margaret Elizabeth	Galbraith, Charles
Brown, Mrs. Ralph E.	Crandall, Mrs. Dorothy	Garoutte, O. B.
Brown, Robert Eugene	Crandall, Bennie	Garoutte, Mrs. O. B.
Bryson, Mrs. Sylvia	Crandall, Loomis	Garoutte, Rex
Bryson, Richard	Crandall, Miss Doris Ann	Garth, Mrs. Walter W.
Buckeridge, Mrs. A.	Cripps, Miss Maxine	Gaston, Mrs. H. G.
Buckeridge, Miss Bess		Gaw, Mrs. Mary E.
Buckeridge, Miss Helen		

Gibson, Randolph Herd	Hulett, Mrs. Fred M.	Lewis, Richard
Giles, E. C.	Hulett, Richard	Loomis, Mrs. F. B.
Giles, Mrs. E. C.	Hulett, Elroy	Lott, George W.
Giles, Cecil		Lott, Mrs. George W.
Gillen, Mrs. Clara	Inman, John	Lowe, Mrs. Tom
Gilmer, Miss Olive	Inman, Mrs. John	
Gray, Mrs. L. G.	Inman, Miss Phyllis Jane	Madden, Miss Imogene
Green, Mrs. Floyd	Inman, John, Jr.	Magruder, J. Raymond
Griffey, Sam	Irvin, James Ivan	Magruder, Mrs. J.
Griffey, Mrs. Sam		Raymond
Griffin, R. E.	James, Walter F.	Magruder, Charles
Griffin, Mrs. R. E.	James, Mrs. Walter F.	Raymond
Griffin, Miss Caroline	James, Miss Janet	Magruder, Miss Mary
Grigg, Miss Fannie	James, William T.	Alice
Gudgen, Mrs. J. F.	Jeffries, Guy W.	Malang, Mrs. Mary Haller
Gudgen, Miss Rozetta	Jeffries, Mrs. Guy W.	Manker, Mrs. C. M.
Gudgen, Miss Mary June	Jenkins, Roy E.	Marx, Mrs. Joseph B.
Gudgen, Paul	Jenkins, Mrs. Roy E.	Masters, Ted C.
Gunning, Miss Treva	Jenkins, Miss Carolyn	Masters, Mrs. Ted C.
	Ann	Matthews, Mrs. C. E.
Hacker, Miss Carrie	Johns, Mrs. Alma R.	Matthews, Norval M.
Hall, C. E.	Johns, Harry	Matthews, Mrs. Norval M.
Hall, Mrs. C. E.	Johns, Barbara	Maxwell, Mrs. M. C.
Hall, Eugene	Johns, Martha	McBride, Mrs. Lulu
Hall, Miss Katherine		McCorkle, Arthur V.
Hancock, Miss Maxine	Keas, W. W.	McCorkle, Mrs. Arthur V.
Hancock, Bert	Keas, Mrs. W. W.	McCorkle, Miss Margaret
Hanson, Wilson	Kershaw, Mrs. J. C.	Ella
Hanson, Mrs. Wilson O.	Keys, Miss Marjorie Ann	McFarland, E. W.
Harbaugh, Mrs. T. A.	Kirk, Miss Bertha	McFarland, Mrs. E. W.
Harris, Mrs. C. C.	Kirk, Miss Ethel	McGrew, Mrs. Garold
Hatten, Mrs. Helen	Kirk, Miss Veva	McKinney, Mrs. Lon
Nesbitt	Kirk, Whitson J.	Ware
Haughawout, Claude R.	Kirk, Mrs. Whitson J.	Meinershagen, Dr. C. W.
Haughawout, Mrs.	Kovar, Mrs. Louis J.	Meinershagen, Mrs.
Claude R.	Kuhn, John R.	C. W.
Haughawout, Miss	Kuhn, Mrs. John R.	Mills, A. K.
Suzanne	Kuhn, J. Raymond, Jr.	Mills, Mrs. A. K.
Hayden, Mrs. T. C.		Mooney, P. L.
Hayes, Dan	Landrum, O. B.	Mooney, Mrs. P. L.
Hayes, Mrs. Dan	Landrum, Mrs. O. B.	Morse, Mrs. Delores
Hays, Arden E.	Landrum, Robert B.	Poole
Hays, Mrs. Arden E.	Landrum, Sam G., Sr.	Moseley, Royle M.
Hays, James	Landrum, Mrs. Sam G.,	Moseley, Mrs. Royle M.
Head, Mrs. Robert	Sr.	Moseley, H. T.
Helm, Miss Margaret	Landrum, Sam G., Jr.	Moseley, Mrs. H. T.
Ann	Lann, Miss Margaret	Mumma, Mrs. M. E.
Helm, Miss Martha	Larsen, Mrs. L. P.	Myers, Mrs. Hal J.
Heilman, Robert	Larsen, Mrs. Larry, Jr.	Myers, William Claud
Herrod, Mrs. Cecil	Lawrence, Robert R.	Myers, Mrs. William
Hilton, Mrs. John G.	Lawrence, Mrs. Robert R.	Claud
Hirons, J. M.	Leach, Mrs. Robert	Myers, William
Hirons, Mrs. J. M.	Leaver, Mrs. Florence	Myers, Max
Hizar, Don	Leaver, Miss Emma	Myers, Miss Helen
Hizar, William Ray	Claire	Myers, Miss Mary
Hitner, Mrs. F. E.	Leistikow, Mrs. William	Margaret
Hitner, Robert	Leonard, Robert	Myers, Robert Payne
Hopp, Mrs. William	Leonard, Miss Bonnie	Myers, John Frederick
Hulett, Harry B.	Jean	
Hulett, Mrs. Harry B.	Lewis, Mrs. J. F.	Nance, C. B.
Hulett, Henry Sutton	Lewis, Miss Fern	Nance, Mrs. C. B.
Hulett, Fred M.	Lewis, Miss Bernita	Nance, Clyde B., Jr.

Nance, Miss Mary Lou	Shade, Mrs. Annie Elvira	Thomas, Nelson Earle
Nealy, Mrs. George	Shadwell, Arthur	Thompson, Mrs. J. B.
Nealy, Edgar C.	Shadwell, Mrs. Arthur	Thompson, John B., Jr.
Nealy, Mrs. Edgar C.	Shadwell, Miss Anna	Thralls, Richard V.
Nelson, Mrs. Ada V.	Arthur	Told, Gordon
Nelson, Frank C., Jr.	Shaner, Mrs. W. F.	Told, Mrs. Gordon
Nelson, Mrs. Frank C., Jr.	Sharp, Mrs. Benjamin, Sr.	Townland, Tommy
Nelson, Miss Lucy	Shuck, W. R.	Toutz, Robert, Jr.
Jeanette	Shuck, Mrs. W. R.	Toutz, Mrs. Robert, Jr.
Nesbitt, Mrs. A. R.	Skinner, John A.	Tuke, W. H.
Nesbitt, Fred H.	Skinner, Mrs. John A.	Tuke, Mrs. W. H.
Nesbitt, Mrs. Fred H.	Skinner, LeRoy	
Newell, Harvey E.	Slaughter, Dr. M. S.	VanHoose, Earl
Newell, Mrs. Harvey E.	Slaughter, Mrs. M. S.	VanHoose, Mrs. Earl
Newell, Miss Frances	Slaughter, Miss Elizabeth	VanHoose, Miss Joan
Dawn	Smith, Mrs. E. P.	Inman
	Smith, Jack K.	VanHoose, Mrs. James H.
O'Neill, Mrs. Orah	Smith, Mrs. Jack K.	VanHoose, LeRoy
Olson, Mrs. Esther	Smith, Kenneth	VanHoose, Mrs. LeRoy
Olson, Houston	Smith, Mrs. Merrill	VanHoose, Miss Jane
	Southard, Mrs. William	VanHoose, James B.
Page, John	Spiva, Mrs. Jennie A.	Vaughan, William
Page, Mrs. John	Spracklen, M. R.	Vaughan, Mrs. Wm.
Parrish, Jack	Spracklen, Bernard	
Parrish, Mrs. Jack	Spracklen, Miss Maurine	Wallace, William
Patten, W. E.	Starkweather, Bert	Wallace, Mrs. William
Patten, Mrs. W. E.	Starkweather, Mrs. Bert	Wallace, John
Phipps, Bonnie	Starkweather, Miss	Waggoner, William W.
Plummer, Mrs. John	Caroline	Waggoner, Bruce R.
Pollock, Mrs. Peggy	Stines, Mrs. Sherman	Waggoner, Mrs. Bruce R.
June O'Neill	Stogsdill, Charles	Wampler, Mrs. W. W.
Potts, Mrs. J. E.	Herbert	Wampler, Oliver N.
Preston, A. K.	Stoller, Mrs. W. A.	Wampler, Mrs. Oliver N.
Preston, Mrs. A. K.	Stormont, Dr. R. M.	Wampler, Nelson
Pruitt, Ralph H.	Stormont, Mrs. R. M.	Watson, Mrs. Dorsey
Purkhiser, Miss Callie	Stormont, Miss	Weaver, Mrs. Della
Purkhiser, L. L.	Katherine	Webb, Elmo
Purkhiser, Mrs. L. L.	Stormont, Miss Mary	Webb, Mrs. Elmo
Purkhiser, Miss Barbara	Jane	Welch, Mrs. Luanna
Ann	Stults, Charles R.	West, Mrs. Carol
	Stults, Mrs. Charles R.	Whipple, Mrs. Joseph W.
Ramey, B. P.	Stults, Robert Charles	Wiggins, Mrs. Lora V.
Ramey, Mrs. B. P.	Switzer, Frank N.	Wiggins, George, Jr.
Ramey, Miss Annette	Switzer, Joseph E.	Wiggins, Charles
Marjorie	Switzer, Mrs. Joseph E.	Wilhite, Hugh
Rawson, Paul C.	Switzer, Eli P.	Wilhite, Mrs. Hugh
Rawson, Mrs. Paul C.	Switzer, Mrs. Eli P.	Williams, Mrs. Karon
Rawson, Paul C., Jr.	Switzer, Miss Janet Adele	Williams, Mrs. M. S.
Rawson, Miss Margaret	Sutter, Harry B.	Wise, Hal M., Sr.
Ann	Sutter, Mrs. Harry B.	Wise, Mrs. Hal M., Sr.
Reynolds, Ben D.		Wise, Hal M., Jr.
Reynolds, Mrs. Ben D.	Teel, Mrs. Roy J.	Wise, George W.
Redding, Miss Nelle	Teel, Robert Lee	Wise, Mrs. George W.
Robertson, Mrs. W. H.	Temple, Lyle L.	Wood, E. E.
Robertson, Henry	Temple, Mrs. Lyle L.	Wood, Mrs. E. E.
Roney, Mrs. T. J.	Temple, Lynn	Wood, Mrs. W. Clyde
Roney, Chester	Templeton, Mrs. L. D.	Woods, Mrs. Marian A.
Rountree, Mrs. J. C.	Tholborn, W. Harry	
Rountree, Nicholas Marr	Tholborn, Mrs. W. Harry	Yost, Mrs. Helen Shaw
Rountree, Malcolm S.	Tholborn, Miss Josephine	
Rountree, Howard	Thomas, Clyde O.	
	Thomas, Roy B.	

ELDERS—1877-1942

W. A. Wheatley	1877-1879	T. J. Roney.....	1912-1939
J. G. Irwin.....	1878-1882	Died April 16, 1939.	
Hiram Van Pelt.....	1880-1889	William P. Purkhiser.....	1912-1914
Died, 1889.		Lettered to Springfield, Mo.,	
S. L. Manker.....	1889-1900	Dec. 1, 1913.	
Died December 1, 1900.		R. S. Nichols.....	1912-1917
J. P. Walker.....	1889-1894	Died January, 1926.	
S. F. Clark.....	1896-1902; 1906-1912	O. E. Beaman	1910-1919
George F. C. Corl.....	1891-1894	Lettered to Wichita, Kansas,	
Lettered to Central Methodist		Feb. 12, 1919.	
Church, 1894.		W. R. Robertson.....	1915-1918
W. J. Stevens.....	1891-1895	Lettered to Carthage, Dec. 2,	
Lettered to Carthage, Septem-		1919.	
ber 25, 1895.		L. G. Gray.....	1915-1924
George W. Lawyer	1891-1899	Died February 16, 1924.	
Lettered to Pasadena, Calif.,		F. F. Davidson.....	1916-1919
December 3, 1899.		Lettered to Miami, Okla., April	
W. W. Wampler.....		9, 1919; died May, 1926.	
.....	1894-1897; 1912-1933	J. N. Utterson.....	1918-1921
Died January 30, 1939.		Lettered to Long Beach, Calif.,	
H. C. Humphreys.....		January 5, 1921.	
.....	1894-1897; 1905-1923	O. B. Landrum ..	1919-1940; 1941-
Died October, 1923.		J. D. Baldrige, Sr.....	1919-1940
W. W. Kirkpatrick.....	1895-1915	H. O. Hopp.....	1923-1934
A. G. Young.....	1897-1902; 1906-1912	Lettered to Claremore, Okla.,	
Died January 12, 1934.		February 7, 1934.	
O. J. Raymond	1900-1906	Harry B. Hulett.....	1923-1940
Lettered April 8, 1906, to		B. D. Reynolds ..	1923-1941; 1942-
Independence, Mo.		R. M. Stormont ..	1923-1941; 1942-
C. M. Manker.....	1901-1920	L. R. Reynolds.....	1924-1930
Died December 28, 1920.		Lettered to Joplin, May 7, 1930.	
Dr. C. W. Jocelyn.....	1902-1910	Walter L. Martin.....	1926-1933
Moved to Boston, Mass., Dec.		Lettered to Joplin, April 5,	
10, 1910.		1933; died June 13, 1937.	
J. K. McGoodwin.....	1903-1908	I. J. Ady.....	1926-1929
R. T. Hurley.....	1906	Moved to Picher, Okla., Jan.	
Elder at Carterville Church,		1, 1930.	
1906-1914; died July 18, 1914.		C. E. Hall.....	1929-1942
R. C. Butts	1906-1917	C. C. Harris.....	1930-1937
Died August 2, 1939.		Died November 26, 1937.	
C. C. Butts	1906-1910	L. V. Galbraith.....	1933-1941; 1942-
Elder Emeritus, 1910.		Ralph Rodkey.....	1933-1936
Died August 22, 1937.		Moved to Dayton, Ohio, Jan-	
J. H. Templeton	1906-1910	uary, 1936.	
Elder Emeritus, 1910.		A. L. Hosman.....	1934-1938
Died July 25, 1917.		Lettered to Galena, Kan., Sep-	
Dr. E. W. McFarland.....	1908-1940	tember 9, 1938.	
D. A. Graham	1908-1915	E. C. Giles.....	1936-1942
Lettered to Joplin, Sept. 5, 1915.		L. L. Purkhiser.....	1940-
F. E. Hitner	1910-1923	E. E. Wood.....	1940-
Died January 29, 1923.		Edgar Nealy	1940-
W. B. Shackelford	1910-1919	C. H. Bentley.....	1940-
Lettered to Joplin, March 5,		G. W. Lott.....	1941-
1919; died July 9, 1921.		Ralph E. Brown.....	1941-
J. B. Arbuthnot.....	1910-1919		
Lettered to Joplin, Jan. 25, 1919.			

TRUSTEES—1877-1942

A. A. Cass.	W. C. Stewart.....1898-1901
W. A. Wheatley.	Died March, 1905.
Joseph King.	O. J. Raymond.....1903-1906
W. J. Muskimins.	Lettered to Independence, Mo.,
Dr. C. T. Miller.	1906.
C. M. Manker.....1891-1900	E. J. Pratt.....1905-1930
Died December 28, 1920.	Died July 11, 1930.
J. O. Munson.....1891-1892	O. C. Zaumseil.....1905-1939
Lettered to Monett, Mo., Sep-	Died April 24, 1939.
tember 10, 1893.	J. H. Templeton.....1907-1910
Daniel J. Stewart.....1892-1895	C. E. Matthews.....1906-1929
Died, 1896.	Died February 1, 1929.
James P. Stewart.....1892-1898	J. M. Hirons.....1910-
Died February 17, 1912.	(Secretary and Treasurer.)
E. W. McFarland.....1892-1897	Harry B. Hulett.....1910-1915
W. H. Keeler.....1892-1893	B. C. Aylor.....1929-1941
Lettered to Sherman, N. Y.,	Died January 3, 1941.
Dec. 13, 1893.	W. C. Ball.....1933-1940
S. F. Clark.....1894-1897	(President 1937-1940.)
A. G. Young.1896-1902; 1905-1934	Resigned July 21, 1940.
(President) Died Jan. 12, 1934.	Died August 25, 1940.
W. W. Wampler.....	J. A. Skinner.....1939-
.....1897-1900; 1905-1939	Arthur V. McCorkle.....1939-
President 1905-1912.	(President 1940.)
Died January 30, 1939.	Dr. George W. Cox.....1940-
J. A. Bowman.....1897-1903	F. H. Danglade.....1942-

CLERKS OF THE SESSION

W. A. Wheatley.....1877-1879	A. G. Young.....1897-1902
J. G. Irwin.....1879-1882	C. M. Manker.....1902-1920
Dr. J. G. Reaser.....1888-1889	O. B. Landrum.....1921-1940
S. L. Manker.....1889-1893	L. V. Galbraith.....1940-1941
G. F. C. Corl.....1893-1894	O. B. Landrum.....1941-
W. W. Wampler.....1894-1897	

TREASURERS

S. L. Manker.....1890-1894	L. G. Gray.....1909-1910
J. P. Stewart.....1894-1898	D. A. Graham.....1910-1911
J. C. Stewart.....1898-1900	Harry B. Hulett.....1911-1942
J. A. Bowman.....1900-1903	L. V. Galbraith.....1942-
A. G. Young.....1904-1909	

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

C. M. Manker.....1881-1920	L. V. Galbraith.....1937-1939
O. B. Landrum.....1920-1927	Resigned October, 1939.
(Acting Supt., 1918-1920.)	B. P. Ramey.....1939-1940
B. D. Reynolds.....1927-1932	Resigned September 11, 1940.
L. V. Galbraith.....1932-1935	John Davisson.....1940-1941
Resigned October 6, 1935.	Resigned August 10, 1941.
Robert F. Hitner.....1935-1937	Mrs. Beverley Bunce.....1941-
Resigned July 7, 1937.	

DEACONS—1891-1942

C. M. Manker.....	1891-1901	Wallace Wright.....	1907-1911
C. C. Sutton.....	1891-1910	D. A. Graham.....	1907-1908
Mrs. C. L. Wright.....	1891-1897	J. M. Hiron.....	1908-1910
Mrs. S. L. Manker.....	1891-1897	L. G. Gray.....	1908-1912
Mrs. J. C. Stewart.....	1891-1898	Charles Marr.....	1908
Mrs. S. F. Clark.....	1896-1907	W. P. Purkhiser.....	1908-1912
Miss Ella Walker.....	1897-1906	J. E. Potts.....	1908-1912
Mrs. M. B. Thomas.....	1898-1901	Pierre M. Wallace.....	1909-1912
Dr. C. W. Jocelyn.....	1896-1902	W. C. Rackerby.....	1909-1912
W. W. Wampler.....	1900-1908	J. C. McMunn.....	1909-1910
E. W. McFarland.....	1900-1908	J. N. Utterson.....	1910-1912
J. A. Bowman.....	1900-1903	T. E. Penniwell.....	1910-1912
O. E. Beaman.....	1901-1910	T. J. Roney.....	1910-1912
Harry B. Hulett.....	1906-1910	R. S. Nichols.....	1910-1912

Board of Deacons abolished April 10, 1912.

Board of Deacons re-established November 15, 1931.

Sam G. Landrum, Sr.....	1931-1933	Oliver N. Wampler.....	1931-1933
Eugene Hudson.....	1931-1932	Resigned, 1933.	
Lettered to El Dorado, Kansas, 1932.		Ralph Rodkey.....	1931-1933
		L. V. Galbraith.....	1932-1933

Board of Deacons abolished April 19, 1933.

Board of Deacons revived April 19, 1939.

Whitson J. Kirk.....	1939-	B. P. Ramey.....	1940-
Paul C. Rawson.....	1939-	J. D. Baldrige, Jr.....	1940-
Robert D. Toutz.....	1939-	Eli P. Switzer.....	1940-
Mrs. J. R. Kuhn.....	1939	Clyde C. Beagle.....	1941-
(Declined.)		Mrs. Ben C. Aylor.....	1941-
Mrs. Nelle C. Matthews.....	1939	Arthur Shadwell.....	1941
Moved to Pharr, Texas.		(Declined.)	
A. K. Mills.....	1939-1942	W. C. Myers.....	1941-
Mrs. Pansy Gudgen.....	1939-1942	Miss Myra Ferris.....	1941-
Mrs. C. M. Manker.....	1939-	Guy Jeffries.....	1942-
John A. Skinner.....	1939-1942	Jack Smith.....	1942-
Mrs. L. L. Ashcraft.....	1939-1941	Miss Treva Gunning.....	1942-
L. L. Purkhiser.....	1939-1940	Mrs. J. W. Burrows.....	1942-
G. W. Lott.....	1940-1941		

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